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MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

WORCESTER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

FOR 1865.

COMPRISING THE ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT HILL, TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY, AND THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN.

——Also,——

A CATALOGUE OF ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY: A ROLL OF THE ACCESSIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY: AND A REVISED LIST OF FRUITS RECOMMENDED FOR LOCAL CULTURE.

From EDWARD W. LINCOLN, Secretary.

WORCESTER:
1866.

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ADDRESS

OF

J. HENRY HILL, President,

At the Twenty-sixth Annual Exhibition, in Review of the Condition of the Society. Delivered on Thursday Evening, September 21, *at* 8 *o'clock.*

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Worcester County Horticultural Society:

We have for some time past looked forward to this our Twenty-Sixth Annual Exhibition, with alternations of hope and fear. And while we are constrained to admit that our fears have been to some extent realized, our hopes, on the other hand, have been, to an eminent degree, fulfilled. Although our exhibition has not been attended with that decided success which we could have wished, and which has marked some of those in former years, still no one can look over the fine collection of Pears upon your tables, and the abundance of Grapes and Vegetables in their respective rooms, and feel disposed to so much as hint at failure. The Apple crop which has hitherto furnished one of the most attractive features of our exhibitions, we all knew had entirely failed; and the display of that fruit, meagre as it is, comparatively, is a subject of universal, but agreeable surprise. The Pear family, notwithstanding the unfavorable character of the season, has come nobly to the rescue, and furnishes us with far more than an average show: indeed, we have very rarely had a larger number of plates of remarkably fine Pears upon our tables than at the present time. The withdrawal of the premium for the largest and best collection has, unquestionably, had the effect to very much reduce the number of entries. The question of restoring it in future, is one worthy of your consideration. The departments of Grapes and other Fruits, and of Flowers, are considerably in advance of many previous years, and that of Vegetables fully up to the average of former Exhibitions. Taking all things into consideration, therefore, your present Exhibition, in many of its features, may justly be regarded as a remarkable one.

By the following tabular statement, it will be seen that while there are not so

many contributors this year, the whole number of entries, is slightly increased from that of last year.

1864.			1865.		
	Contributors.	Entries.		Contributors.	Entries.
Apples,	44	593	Apples,	30	205
Pears,	72	662	Pears,	71	660
Grapes & other Fruits,	49	178	Grapes & other Fruits,	50	181
Flowers,	23	153	Flowers,	18	476
Vegetables,	40	413	Vegetables,	38	492
	228	1958		207	2014

The financial condition of the Society remains much the same as one year since. While our expenses, some of them have been of an extraordinary character, the sources of our income have remained substantially the same. The rental of the Hall has been slightly increased, while that of the stores under it could not be, from the fact that they were occupied under leases for a term of years.

The present permanent debt of the Society, secured by a mortgage upon its real estate, is seven thousand nine hundred dollars. The floating debt is large enough, with our current expenses, to absorb, at least, all the remaining income to accrue during the present year.

The addition of members to the Society, during the present year, has been unusually large, numbering nearly one hundred. This large increase only demonstrates what may be done by a little personal, active exertion. Many people in the community only need an invitation, to induce them to join our ranks. The Secretary and two or three other gentlemen constituted themselves a committee to extend such invitation, and their efforts in the work have been attended with these gratifying results. Will not the experiment bear a repetition?

By far the largest item in the current expenditures of the present year, is the one for printing. By a vote of the Corporation at its last annual meeting, in January, the Committee of Publication were directed to collect, arrange, and publish the transactions of the Society, from the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven to the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, inclusive, together with the by-laws, a list of the members, and any other matter which might be necessary to complete the general history of the Society from the date of its last publication, in eighteen hundred and fifty-six. The Committee gave this work into the charge of the Secretary, who has executed the commission with his usual fidelity and pains-taking, giving to the members of the Society a handsomely printed, and conveniently arranged volume of one hundred and thirty pages, which I think will be found to be a valuable addition to our permanent history as a Society, as well as a pleasant and profitable manual of reference for our members. The work of collecting and arranging the matter was attended with no little difficulty: the custom of publishing our transactions annually, had been so long neglected, that the reports of committees in later

years had not been preserved with very scrupulous care. In many instances, the Chairman of the Committees had never written out their reports, under the impression, doubtless, that the only valuable part of a report, or the one generally *regarded* as valuable, was the one which announced the several premiums; and that any further labors of theirs would be wholly unappreciated, and serve only to lumber the files of the Secretary. In other cases, probably, the reports were drawn up, but after having been read, were retained by their authors, and in this way lost to the Society. It will be noticed, therefore, that in some years, but a very meagre account of our doings have been given—nothing was to be found, indeed, excepting what could be gleaned from the annual premium lists, or from the newspaper items of the day.

I took occasion, a year since, very briefly, to urge the importance of resuming the former custom of publishing our transactions annually, and of making that custom a permanent one. Subsequent observation, and the effect produced by the appearance of this volume, have only served to strengthen and deepen the convictions then expressed. I think it will be found, that the regular annual publication of our transactions will have a decidedly beneficial effect upon our operations. The tendency will be to awaken and sustain a new interest in our present members, and be the means of adding to our numbers, and thus enlarge the field of our labors. It gives us evidence of a tangible character, which we can send out to the community, that we are still prosecuting the work which we have undertaken to do. It gives us a record of different experiences and different results which we always have by us for study and instruction. If it once becomes a settled policy with us, if it is understood that we invariably publish our record annually, we can with a far better grace call upon gentlemen whose experience and training we need, to act upon our several committees, and who will cheerfully and willingly render us the service of obtaining and embodying in their reports, the experiences and observations of contributors, and the means employed by successful competitors in the production of their contributions. We shall then feel that we have done something more than give the community an opportunity, for two or three days in a year, of looking upon a fine display of fruit, by furnishing, in some small degree, the information, which, if acted upon, will lead them to the same results.

The only objection ever urged, with any degree of force, against this annual publication of our transactions, or which indeed can be urged, is that of expense. But one would naturally think that the true question would be, are these publications valuable to us as a means of creating an interest in our growth and welfare as a Society, or in diffusing a knowledge and fostering a love of the cause in which we are engaged—are they the proper vehicles of such information as will prove of substantial service to those engaged in horticultural and kindred pursuits—of giving currency to a general, practical knowledge upon such subjects in the community which comes within the range of our influence. In other words, is this the best, or one of the best means of arousing and keeping alive an interest, and attracting and fixing attention to the objects of our organization? If not, then we may as well consider the question as set-

tled, once for all, against the policy. If on the other hand, it is the best, or one of the best means for doing this work, then the question of expense becomes one of a secondary character. And I venture to affirm now, and without fear of contradiction, that the experiment has been fairly tried; and with those who have been intimately acquainted with our history for the last fifteen years, there will be very little hesitation in pronouncing judgment. From eighteen hundred fifty-two to eighteen hundred fifty six, inclusive, our transactions were published, with one exception, annually; and who of our number that has kept an eye to the progress and growth of the Society, can point to any other five years of its existence marked with more decided or more rapidly increasing prosperity than these. There was a vigor and a life manifested during that period, which we have to a greater or less degree wanted since—a more general and lively interest, and a more healthy activity than in the years which immediately followed. In eighteen hundred and fifty-six, for economy's sake, our transactions were published in a cheap and inferior manner; and my own recollection is,—and I was connected with the Society as its Secretary from 1852 to 1861, inclusive, and had occasion to notice these things,—that from that time, vague suspicions began to be entertained and expressed, in some quarters, that we were on the decline—that our inability, as it was called, to publish our transactions, was evidence that we were not in a very flourishing condition. And when publication ceased altogether, I can distinctly recollect the look of disappointment which came over members when told in answer to their inquiries for the Transactions, that the Society did not publish them "this" or "that" year. They evidently felt that their membership was shorn of half its value if the only information they were to derive from it was through the eye, at the annual Exhibitions—by looking at fine fruit without being told how to produce it. It seemed like taking a step backwards—that after having assumed a position among associations of a kindred character, of importance enough to warrant the publication of our proceedings annually, we had voluntarily surrendered our rank and withdrawn a positive power from the service in which we had engaged. But we have now resumed the work of publication, and in the volume of the present year we have done all that could be done to fill the hiatus in our history caused by these eight years of neglect: and I think the general satisfaction with which its appearance has been hailed by the members of the Society, and the large accessions to our lists during the year, justify the wisdom of the step.

In these later times, when every thing of character, and every principle of honor, of integrity and of faithfulness to duty, seems to be laid upon the altar of gain—when every man seems to have an Iago at his side, whispering in his ear, "put money in thy purse,"—"*only put money in thy purse*," it is difficult for most of us to conceive it possible that any man, or any association of men, should have an existence for any other purpose than the accumulation of wealth. But let us, as a Society, keep free from the influences of this prevailing spirit. Let us constantly keep in mind that we are not associated together to make money—to heap up treasure; but to diffuse information upon the subject we have in charge, to do a work which will contribute in some small degree, it is to

be hoped, to the happiness and comfort of the people in the community which encourages and sustains us.

But I know it will be pressed home upon us, "we are in debt—we should save every thing until we have that discharged—then we shall be a power for good,"—a specious argument, and one which if acted upon, is fraught with much mischief to the well-being of the Society. We might indeed be a power then, but without a field in which to exercise it. I yield to no man in my dislike of the responsibilities of debt, in any of its forms—or in my desire to see the one now resting upon our association diminished, or extinguished altogether. But the reduction, or extinction of that debt, should not be the paramount object of our efforts. On the other hand, I would not, for the sake of making the volume of that debt smaller, by one or two hundred dollars, more or less, annually, strangle the Society for all purposes of practical good. Use rather, all the means at your command to infuse new life into it, to make it stronger, more active, more efficient, and you will have done that which will enable you more easily to control that debt or to throw it off entirely, at a much earlier day, to the relief of those who now regard it as of such huge proportions.

Let us then use the means placed at our disposal with such wisdom as we may command—spending liberally, but not lavishly, or wastefully;—always practising a true economy, and neglecting no opportunity of making our organization more efficient and vigorous in its action, proving ourselves, within the circle of our influence, an instrument of substantial good to such as choose to avail themselves of our efforts; thus gaining strength to ourselves while endeavoring to impart aid and assistance to others.

The Weekly Exhibitions, which have become for a few years past an established feature in the labors of the Society, have been kept up during the season; and as we have approached our annual festival, the general and active interest in them has very decidedly increased. Their continuance, sustained as it is by contributions from so many different sources, even by members in some instances from the adjoining towns, renders the fact more obvious than ever, that they are of incalculable value to those at all interested in the subject of horticulture. And to those who are selecting trees, and planting orchards and fruit yards, no place offers itself where an hour can be more profitably spent, once in a week, than here. I would venture to suggest, in this connection, whether a committee might not be appointed, whose duty it should be, by some one of its members, to note down from week to week, in the form of a brief record, the appearance, quality and general characteristics of the different varieties of the several fruits, as they are exhibited in their ripe state, with such occasional facts and information as they may be able to obtain in relation to the mode of their culture and the character of the different soils on which they are produced; the whole to be embodied in a report for publication with our Transactions. To those who are engaged in the subject practically, it would furnish something to which they could refer with confidence, and by which they may be guided in their selections to suit their tastes and wants, and in the adaptation of their soil to the growth and production of the different varieties.

While congratulating ourselves upon our past success,—and no one will deny that we have earned the right to exchange congratulations,—we cannot, if we would, shut our eyes to the field of labor before us. We have but just entered upon our work. While we can reach back, as it were, with our hand, to the point from which we started, we have a field of almost illimitable extent stretching out before us. We have just ascertained, in some measure, the capacity of our soil and climate for the production of many desirable fruits. We have now to put that capacity to a practical test, in its various forms, for our enjoyment and the enjoyment of those around us. We have more luxuries within our reach, and at our command, than we have many of us hitherto dreamed of.

A twelve month or more ago, a gentleman of no mean attainments in horticultural pursuits, as your own tables for many years will abundantly testify, said to me, "the time for Horticultural and Agricultural Societies is past—they were all very well in their day and have done much good, but their work is accomplished." Now how extensively this error may prevail no one knows; but 'tis none the less error, and that too, of a very mischievous description; and the sooner some corrective is applied the better. Had the assertion been made that our people had lost their interest in such institutions, it would have been more plausible. It is sometimes said, that one of our national characteristics, (and not without some show of justice,) is, that we are eager for results, and impatient of all plodding and exhaustive research;—that we jump at conclusions, leaving the surer and more laborious and circuitous modes to fossils and fogies. As in every thing else, so in horticultural pursuits, we take the shortest route, and adopt the first successful experiment, whether resulting from accident or chance, as the rule for future action. True, we have countless theories, in different departments of the science, which upon fair trial have been rejected as worthless;—we learn nothing from the lesson, but are as devoted to half developed theories as ever. This is the reason we have so little comparative skill, generally shown in the culture of fruits. We are very apt at the first success to imagine we are in possession of the whole mystery, and straightway make the claim broad enough to cover every thing—"Eureka"—"We have found it." But it too often proves to be the case, that echo with her skeptical sneer "*found it!*" comes nearer the truth—that there is more significance in the echo than in the claim.

"Found it!" Where is the evidence of the discovery? Is it with our fruit dealers with their plates of peaches, placarded thirty cents each, and pears fifteen? There is nothing at all satisfactory in this kind of proof, to the multitude, that fruit culture has arrived at any great degree of perfection, or in which they take any very high degree of satisfaction. Only a few are able to indulge in such luxuries. They may feast their eyes upon it, but the culture of fruit has not become general enough to admit of any thing further. Examine the farms within your own reach, and see how few of them are supplied with fruit, or have any promise of it for the future. It will be found that our farmers too often regard the returns for fruit too far in the future; that the compensation for their labor is too much delayed. They demand quicker results and more speedy

profits. There never was a more fatal error. Cole says, in his excellent little Fruit book: "A farmer would not plant an orchard, thinking he should not live to eat the fruit; his son had the same views; but the grandson planted for posterity, yet his predecessors shared in the fruit also, for the grandfather drank hogsheads of the cider."

"Found it!" Is the evidence in the young orchards that we so often see, and which so often hold out no promise whatever of future good? In many instances they have been planted so hastily and carelessly, that it is a miracle if they lived at all, and they are left thenceforth to take care of themselves. The farmer thinks his whole duty is performed when once the roots of his young trees are under the surface of the earth; and then if they do not thrive and produce fruit abundantly, he at once comes to the conclusion that his soil is not adapted to the growth of fruits, abandons his trees, and turns to his corn and potatoes for more speedy profits. If he serves them as he did his trees, he will meet with the same results. Who has not seen these young orchards in this state of utter neglect, and seeing, has not felt an uncomfortable, choking sensation as he has watched the struggle going on between the trunks of the trees and the turf about them, with an overwhelming conviction that the latter was to be the victim, and that the trees, and the labor of the farmer in planting them, were soon to perish together.

Nothing is more needless, than that fruits should command such exhorbitant prices in our markets. There is capacity enough in our farms and lands to keep pace, with a proper effort, with our ever increasing population, furnishing a full supply at reasonable prices to the consumer, and yet remunerative ones to the produces.

Farmers should learn, that in no way can they possibly realize a surer, or more abundant reward for their labor, than in the cultivation of fruit. If they cannot plant and cultivate trees for themselves, let them do it for those who are to come after them; and in nine cases out of ten it will prove that they become partakers of the first fruits themselves.

Let all learn, who would cultivate fruit successfully, that the planting of trees is not the only thing to be done. The trees must not only be planted, but planted carefully and skilfully, and when planted, cared for with constant vigilance and unremitting attention.

All these evils and errors, with a score of others that come crowding upon one, in taking a hasty glance of the subject, are susceptible of correction, and there is no work more pertinent to our organization, or which comes more directly within our sphere than this. We need not yet fold our hands under the impression that our labors are at an end, or that the objects of our association have been fully accomplished.

But lest my friend, alluded to, should think that the hints I have thrown out are insufficient to show that the work of the Society is not finished, I will very briefly allude to one other matter, (if you will bear with me for a moment longer,) and one which is likely to engage our attention, and demand our labor, for some time to come. It probably has not escaped the observation of any

cultivator, in going over his grounds and making an examination of his fruits, the present season, that a very large proportion of that fruit is imperfect, in some instances, almost worthless. He will find upon a closer examination, that an enemy has been at work, and that his ravages have been universal: an enemy insignificant, indeed, in size—so much so that scores of his kind can rest in the hollow of the hand:—but what he lacks in size he makes up in numbers and diligence. His trade mark is unmistakeable—the crescent form of his signature leaves no room for doubt.

This enemy to which I allude, the Curculio, was formerly somewhat dainty in his appetite, and the plum seemed the only fruit suited to his palate; but that appetite has become more gross, and now no fruit is spared by him. He is an enemy against which war must be declared and waged to extermination, if we would realize anything from the trees that have so long been watched and cared for by us. Dr. Trimble, the distinguished entomologist of the State Agricultural Society of New Jersey, and other Associations, has just given us a work in which the subject is very thoroughly discussed; and although he advances no theory looking to relief from the insect, beyond the mere *killing* of it, he disposes, very summarily, of quite a number that have been advanced by others. He puts forward the curculio as *the* great enemy with which fruit growers will hereafter contend; as the one against which all our energies are to be directed, until we find ourselves relieved of his presence. Forewarned is forearmed: and I simply allude to the subject for the purpose of calling the attention of the Society to it, that we may do whatever we may be able, to meet and contest the advance, and prevent the further increase of this destructive, and already powerful foe to the horticulturist.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION, 1865.

REPORT ON APPLES.

Stephen S. Foster, *Chairman;* Samuel H. Colton, J. Frank Allen, Dr. Rufus Woodward, of Worcester; Newell Wood, of Millbury; and S. A. Knox, of Grafton.

The Committee to whom was assigned the duty of awarding your premiums on Apples, have instructed me to submit the following report.

The whole number of contributors to this important department of your Annual Exhibition is twenty-three,—the number of their contributions, of all sorts, sizes and descriptions, is 192, or less than one-fourth the number of several preceding years. In quality, the contrast between the contributions of this and preceding years, is scarcely less painful. Indeed, much of the fruit upon your tables is no ornament to the Fair, and in ordinary seasons would be entirely inadmissible. But the meagreness of these contributions must not be construed into any want of interest among fruit-growers in the object and efforts of the Society. On the contrary, it is evidently the result of another failure of the apple crop throughout the entire county,—a failure which has no parallel in the history of the past. Heretofore, in seasons unproductive of this invaluable fruit, particular localities have been exempt from the general blight; but that this season furnishes no such exemptions is abundantly proved by the general appearance of the market, as well as by the mournful aspect of this exhibition. The insects which have hitherto been content to share with us this indispensable product of our toil, have at last taken the whole, and left us nothing but the unsightly, sickening crumbs which fall from their dainty table. We have conquered the rebellion, but we have in our midst a foe more subtle than traitors, and more formidable than armies—a foe whose extirpation as a public benefaction demands alike the skill of science and the energies of labor.

In making their award your Committee were greatly embarrassed by the fact that very few of the contributors had complied with the conditions on which the premiums were offered. Most of the collections were deficient in the number of varieties necessary to entitle them to any of the higher premiums; while most of the varieties were wanting in the requisite number of specimens to entitle them to the premiums for single varieties. Under these circumstances the only course which seemed open to them, in justice to all parties, was to adhere

strictly to the rules of the Society in awarding its premiums, but at the same time, to recommend an unusual number of gratuities.

They accordingly submit for your favorable consideration the following list of premiums and gratuities, with the single explanatory remark that the collection presented by the Chairman of your Committee, was for exhibition only, and was not in competition for a premium.

Apples.—For the best collection of not less than six specimens of each variety, Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester,.....$10 00
For the second best, Adams Foster, of Holden,..... 8 00
For the third best, S. A. Knox, of Grafton,..... 6 00
For the best twelve varieties, George A. Chamberlain, of Worcester, (Gratuity,) 5 00
For second best, S. P. Champney, of Saundersville, (Gratuity,)..... 3 00
For his collection of five varieties, E. M. Banuing, of Worcester, (Gratuity,).....2 00
For his collection of four varieties, J. Boyden, of Worcester,(Gratuity) 2 00
For his collection, W. W. Keyes, of West Boylston, (Gratuity,)..... 2 00
For his New York Pippins, Isaac Mills, of Worcester, (Gratuity,)..... 1 00
For best eight Gravenstein Apples, L. Worcester, of Shrewsbury,... 1 00
For plate of Porter Apples, Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northboro', (Gratuity,)..... 1 00
For best plate of Hubbardston Nonsuch, J. E. Phelps, of Worcester, 1 00
For plate of Baldwins, D. B. Comins, of Worcester, (Gratuity,)... 1 00
For his collection, Silas Allen, of Shrewsbury, (Gratuity,)..... 1 00
For Hubbardston Nonsuch, S. H. Burbank, of Worcester, (Gratuity,) 1 00

S. S. FOSTER, Chairman.

REPORT ON FLOWERS, PLANTS, &c.

Charles A. Chase, *Chairman;* James L. Burbank, George Chandler, D. S. Messinger, of Worcester; and Jona. D. Wheeler, of Grafton.

The department of Plants and Flowers is one of the sufferers in consequence of the season, and the tables are not so abundantly supplied as your Committee would wish. But we are duly grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who have gleaned the choicest treasures from their gardens and green-houses, and sent them in here, arranged, for the most part, with excellent taste.

We award the following premiums:

Plants.—For the largest and best display of Variegated-leaved Plants, to Stephen Salisbury,.....$10 00

No second premium was offered for this class, but from the funds at their disposal, the Committee award a Gratuity of $5 to Wm. T. Merrifield.

Premiums were offered for green-house and stove plants. Some of this class were included in the collections above mentioned, but there were no distinct entries.

No "floral designs" were exhibited.

Cut Flowers.—Best stand, Mrs. Daniel Tainter,..... 2 00
Second best, Stephen Salisbury,..... 1 00
Best arranged basket or dish, Miss Frances M. Lincoln,..... 2 00
Second best, Mrs. Daniel Tainter,..... 1 00

Bouquets.—Best pair, Henry Forney,..... 2 00
Roses.—Best (and only) display, Jona. Grout,..... 3 00
Gladiolus.—The only display was made by Mrs. M. B. Green, and to her we award the second premium of..... 2 00
Asters.—Best display, Joseph Lovell,..... 1 00
Dahlias.—Best display, James T. Pike,..... 1 00
Verbenas.—Best display, Jonathan Grout,..... 1 00

Mrs. H. O. Goodrich contributes a Carnation Pink which was a slip only three months ago, but is now of great size; and an Oleander which has grown as wondrously in ——months,—results indicative of excellent care on that lady's part.

Mr. Grout contributes a curious plant, the Tagetes signata pumila, the first specimen that ever blossomed in this city.

A full-sized Oleander ornaments the Hall, contributed by Mrs. Charles Shute; and among the curiosities of the exhibition is to be mentioned a collection of Cocoons of the silk-worm, furnished by Miss S. E. Chamberlain.

All of which is respectfully submitted for the Committee,

CHARLES A. CHASE, Chairman.

REPORT ON GRAPES, PEACHES, &c., &c.

George Jaques, *Chairman;* Benjamin Butman, John Milton Earle, E. S. Stebbins, John C. Ripley, of Worcester; and Paul Whitin, of Whitinsville.

The Committee on Fruits other than Apples and Pears, were gratified to find that the department of the Exhibition which they were appointed to examine, contained a large and beautiful display of green-house and open-air Grapes, comprising almost all the varieties having an established reputation in this section of country.

Of Grapes, grown under glass, the principal contributors were Wm. T. Merrifield, John C. Mason, D. Waldo Lincoln, and Wm. A. Wheeler, all of Worcester. Mr. Merrifield's collection consisted of fourteen varieties; Mr. Mason's of thirteen, and the berries in this latter collection were not quite so highly col-

ored as those of Mr. Merrifield. It was very difficult to determine which of these two beautiful collections rightfully ought to receive the first prize; but the votes of a majority of the Committee finally favored Mr. Merrifield's. In regard to the comparative merits of the other collections it was not until after patient examination and consultation that it was possible to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion: but by off-setting—one against another—form and weight of bunches, and color (as evidence of ripeness) of berries, &c., &c., the result of the competition came at length to be as recommended in the schedule of premiums hereto annexed.

Some *Diana* grapes raised under glass by W. H. Thurston, of Oxford, were large and fine, but deficient in color, which is deemed an important indication of perfect development in all fruit, whatever be the mode of cultivation. *Child's Superb*, so named in Mr. Thurston's collection, was believed to be something else, probably some foreign variety.

Of out-door Grapes, there was a large and varied representation, from thirty-eight contributors. There were, however, but five competitors for the two prizes offered, this year, for "collections of not less than six varieties." The decisions of the Committee will be found below.

Among the grapes especially noticed as being very superior, were magnificent clusters of the *Union Village*, also fine *Allen's Hybrid* and *Adirondac*, from George H. Martin, of Norwich, Conn.

Valuable contributions deserving honorable mention in this department, were made, also, by George H. Estabrook, Daniel Tainter, and Wm. A. Wheeler, of Worcester, by J. C. Lovell, of West Boylston, and by H. W. Thurston, of Oxford.

Aside from the above-named, and from those mentioned in the following list of the premiums recommended, there were a considerable number of contributions of grapes, which, though falling below the prize standard of excellence, would have been made the subject of a critical notice, had there been time to enter into such details.

The Committee had the gratification of tasting finely ripened specimens of a delicious new out-door grape raised from the seed of the *Diana* and named the *Iona*. If this grape shall prove to be adapted to our climate, it will be a great acquisition. The specimens—the only ones in the Hall—were contributed by an agent of Dr. Grant, with whom this grape originated, on the Island of Iona, N. Y. It may be stated here that the *Iona* is the grape to which was recently awarded the one hundred dollar prize, offered by the Hon. Horace Greeley, for "the best grape adapted to general cultivation in the Middle and Eastern States.

Several samples of the fruit of wild vines transplanted from the fields and woods, were noticed on the tables: but the Committee cannot recommend the cultivation of even the best of this class of grapes, unless possibly it may be in localities where the excellent varieties—*Hartford*, *Delaware*, *Concord*, and *Diana*—recommended by the Society, will none of them mature their fruit. The truth is, none of these wildlings can, for a moment, maintain a position by the side of the poorest of our modern improved seedlings.

A word or two may be allowable, in this place, in regard to the progress of grape-culture in this vicinity during the quarter of a century since the influence of our Horticultural Society began to be felt. Twenty-five years ago, the *Isabella*, the *Blackstone*, and the *Fitchburg* were sold as popular grapes from our nurseries. Of these the former rarely, if ever, comes to perfection in our cold climate; and the other two, even when ripe, are not worth much. At the present time, we have among others, at least one variety, ripening here in the open air, which, for its pure, rich, sugary, vinous flavor, is hardly surpassed by any grape, native or foreign, known in the world. After the *Delaware* the *Diana* ranks next in quality; and even the *Concord* and the *Hartford* are a great way in advance of what were here considered good grapes, a quarter of a century ago. Beside this, we are every year making progress. New varieties, raised from the seed of excellent kinds, are continually coming into notice, some of them—as the *Iona*, *Israella*, *Adirondac*, &c.,—seeming to be more promising than any that we yet have, the *Delaware* always excepted.

Thus, in a few years, we have advanced from unripe *Isabellas* and coarse fox grapes to varieties of such excellence as to rival the choicest fruits of our climate; and we are still on the high road toward other improvements; so that—whether for wine or the dessert—the cultivation of hardy out-door grapes may before long become an important branch of our Northern horticulture.

Of *Peaches*, there were nine plates, all told. Not a solitary specimen of the *Plum* was seen in the Hall, and the contributions of *Quinces* numbered but eleven plates. That there exists in this vicinity, and elsewhere, a certain feeling of discouragement in regard to the cultivation of these last named fruits, and of the *Cherry* also, is no longer to be concealed. It is difficult, however, to find a satisfactory cause for this prevalent despondency. Some accuse the soil; others, the climate, talking learnedly of changes resulting from the cutting off of forests, the drainage of swamps, the electrical influences of long lines of railways and telegraphs, the cooling of the earth's surface, &c., &c. But to all this it may be replied that the peach, the plum and the cherry are still successfully cultivated in portions of Europe where the more important of these influences have been operating for many centuries longer than they have been in existence here. In our older regions, of New England cultivation, it is true, insects have increased; but that the most formidable of these enemies of fine fruit can ultimately triumph in any contest with the inventive genius of civilized man, is a conclusion to which we ought to be very reluctant to submit. The intellectual achievements of the nineteenth century would have passed, in darker ages of the world for miracles, and the end is not yet. The wolf and the bear which were the terror of our fathers, have receded before the mere physical power of civilization, and are now to be seen only among the curiosities of a menagerie. The curculio and the canker-worm, smitten by the potent wand of science, may, a few years hence, disappear to an equal extent from among the pests of the country.

But the occasion precludes a further discussion of these topics, and whatever encouraging arguments might be urged here to stimulate future experiments in

the cultivation of the peach, the quince, the plum, and the cherry, must be postponed till the temptation of a more favorable opportunity may call up the subject again.

The Committee recommend the following award of Premiums:

GRAPES—grown under glass.—For the largest and best collection—fourteen varieties—to Wm. T. Merrifield, of Worcester,.....$8 00

For the second best collection—thirteen varieties—to John C. Mason, of Worcester,..... 6 00

For the best two clusters of Black Hamburg Grapes, to Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester,..... 2 00

GRAPES—grown out-doors.—For the best collection—eight varieties, viz: Concord, Hartford, Diana, Delaware, Rogers' No. 9 and No. 15, Adirondac, and Allen's Hybrid—to Wm. T. Merrifield, of Worcester..... 6 00

For the second best collection—six varieties—to Francis H. Dewey, of Worcester,..... 4 00

For the third best collection,—six varieties—the Committee recommend a Gratuity to S. V. Stone, of Worcester, of..... 2 00

For the best specimens of thorough-ripe Delaware Grapes, to Wm. H. Thurston, of Oxford,..... 1 00

For the best specimens of thorough-ripe Isabella Grapes, to Joseph E. Phelps, of Worcester..... 1 00

For the best specimens of thorough ripe Concord Grapes, to Horatio Phelps, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the best specimens of thorough-ripe Diana Grapes, to S. H. Burbank, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the best specimens of thorough-ripe Hartford Prolific Grapes, to Horatio Phelps, of Worcester,..... 1 00

PEACHES.—For the best one variety of twelve specimens—Late Crawford,—to Asa H. Allen, of Shrewsbury..... 2 00

For the second best one variety of twelve specimens—Late Crawford,—to D. B. Harrington, of Millbury,..... 1 00

For the other premiums offered for Peaches, there was no competition. No Plums were exhibited, and of the few Quinces which were on the tables, there were none of sufficient excellence to deserve recommendation for a premium.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE JAQUES, Chairman.

REPORT ON PEARS.

George F. Hoar, *Chairman;* Henry Phelps, Edward Earle, D. W. Lincoln, and F. H. Dewey, of Worcester.

The Committee on Pears have awarded the following premiums:

For the best twenty varieties of twelve specimens each, the first premium to Benjamin Butman.....$10 00
Second best, premium to S. H. Colton..... 8 00
For the best fifteen varieties, the first premium to Stephen S. Foster,... 8 00
Second best, premium to John C. Mason,..... 6 00
For the best ten varieties, the first premium to John C. Ripley,..... 6 00
Second best, premium to Joseph Lovell,..... 4 00
For the best five varieties, the first premium to George T. Rice,..... 4 00
Second best, premium to Adams Foster,..... 2 00
For the best twenty-four Seckel Pears, premium to Marshall Flagg,... 1 00
For the best twelve Bartlett Pears, premium to Loring Coes,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Duchesse d'Angouleme Pears, premium to Holloway Harrington,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Louise Bonne de Jersey Pears, premium to James R. Pieree,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Lawrence, premium to T. K. Earle,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Beurre Bosc, premium to Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northboro',..... 1 00
For the best twelve Flemish Beauty, premium to Joseph Boyden,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Beurre d'Anjou, to George Jaques,..... 1 00

The committee award Gratuities of $1 each to the following persons:

To J. R. Pierce, for his Duchesse.
Mrs. Charles Johnson for Winter Nelis and Louise Bonne de Jersey.
James F. Allen, for his De Tongres.
N. K. Merriam, of Grafton, for his collection.
Hartley Williams, for Winter Nelis.
D. S. Messinger, for Urbaniste.
Anthony Chase, for Dix.
Wm. N. Green, for St. Michael.
Wm. T. Moore, for collection.
Edwin Draper, for Dix.

GEO. F. HOAR, Chairman.

REPORT ON VEGETABLES.

Edwin Conant, *Chairman;* Stephen Salisbury, Oliver K. Earle, Thomas R. Norcross, James Green, of Worcester; Josiah L. Woodward, of Millbury.

The Committee on Vegetables respectfully report, that they find on the Secretary's book 492 entries by thirty-eight contributors this year, against 413

entries by forty contributors last year; showing an increased entry of seventy-nine, and a falling off of two contributors. Five of the Committee as originally appointed have been engaged in the active performance of its duties, and although their labors have not in all cases been free from difficulty, they have been unanimous in their conclusions.

They have endeavored to be governed according to the Rule, by quality, rather than by the number of varieties, merely, in awarding premiums for collections, and have assigned for the largest and best collection of vegetables, for his fifty-one varieties,—

To Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester,.....$8 00

For the second largest and best, thirty varieties, to Daniel Tainter, of Worcester,..... 5 00

For the third largest and best, forty-six varieties, to S. P. Champney, of Saundersville,..... 3 00

These were all of them collections of such excellence, and in so different ways that to particularize is almost invidious. The wonderful product of Mr. Tainter's pumpkins, 306 lbs. from one seed, and his extraordinary water-melons were unique features of especial note, while many of the vegetables of all three competitors were of unusual merit.

James T. Pike, of Worcester, exhibited 116 varieties, among which were a large variety of beans and peas, and forty-two kinds of potatoes, and for this latter extraordinary assortment, the Committee recommend a gratuity of $3 00, and another gratuity of $1 00 to Eben F. Champney, of Saundersville, a lad of fourteen years old, for his fine assortment of thirty-eight varieties of vegetables.

We award for the best three pure Canada Crook-neck Squashes, to D. Waldo Lincoln, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the best three Marrow Squashes, to Lucius H. Rice, of Worcester, 1 00

For the best three Hubbard Squashes, to S. Allen, of Shrewsbury,..... 1 00

No premium was awarded for best three mammoth squashes, there being no such parcel sufficiently meritorious.

For the best three Turban Squashes, to Charles Nash, of Worcester,... 1 00

For the the best three Yokohama Squashes, to our Secretary, Edward W. Lincoln, who exhibited seven of these rather novel vegetables, averaging a superior excellence in our local experience,..... 1 00

M. M. Chaffin, of Worcester, produced three of the variety styled by him Cracker Squash, and after some doubt as to the comparative merit of this kind, the premium for the largest squash was awarded to him,..... 2 00

For the second largest squash, to Elkanah Rich, of Worcester,..... 1 00

Mr. Rich brought four large Marrows, but apparently not entirely pure.

No sufficient offerings were made of Celery or of Savoy Cabbages to call for premiums.

For the best three other Cabbages, we give the premium to Asa H. Allen, of Shrewsbury, for his Drumheads,..... 1 00

No Cauliflowers exhibited.

For the best twelve ears of Sweet Corn, to Joseph Lovell of Worcester, 1 00

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL

For the best twelve Tomatoes, to James F. Allen, of Worcester,..... 1 00

Should the Committee apparently fall under censure for this award, they can only say that a more careful compliance with the 12th Rule, in furnishing a list of articles to the Secretary, is indispensable for the guidance of Committees in awarding premiums.

They also recommend the bestowal of a gratuity of $1 to D. M. Hemenway, of Millbury, for his five varieties of Squashes, &c.; of a like sum to Isaac Mills, of Worcester, for his four varieties of Squashes; of fifty cents to Horatio Slocumb, of Sutton, for his surpassingly large and beautiful Cranberries; and of fifty cents to O. B. Hadwen, of Worcester, for his Old Colony Corn.

The Committee will not be expected to comment upon every article exhibited, and not included in collections or parcels already referred to. Several varieties of Potatoes were produced by Edward W. Lincoln; Marrow Squashes, by Thomas H. Rice; Beans from Andersonville seed, by Thomas H. Brooks; Hops and Gourd Squash, by Mrs. C. L. Pierce; pure Turnip Beets, by Edward A. Pierce; Lima Beans, by J. Henry Hill; extraordinary Lester Tomatoes, by Courtland H. Cross, (who came in close competition with Mr. Allen;) Giant Lester and other fine Tomatoes, by Charles Richardson, a display of high merit; mixed Winter Squashes, by George R. Peckham; Drumhead Cabbages, by Stephen Salisbury, and Jonathan Grout, all of Worcester: Cranberries, by J. C. Lovell, of West Boylston; a Blood Beet, weighing ten pounds, by J. N. Murdock, of Leicester: seven Marrow Squashes, by C. B. Metcalf; three Yokohamas, by D. B. Comins; one can of Tomato, by Miss Nannie Clark; varieties of Corn and Beans, by Charles Nash; Winningstadt Cabbages, Mangel-Wurtzel, Turnip Beet, twelve ears of Old Colony Corn, varieties of Potatoes, Onions, Marrow and Hubbard Squashes, by Perry Thayer; Pumpkins, Yokohama Squashes and Red Dutch Cabbages, by Joseph Lovell; Hubbard and Marrow Squashes, Vegetable Eggs, Onions, and Celery, by C. W. Hamilton; Seed Cucumbers, by P. S. Piper; Marrow and Yokohama Squashes, by O. B. Hadwen, all of Worcester: Canada Crooknecks, by S. Allen, of Shrewsbury; a remarkably perfect and beautiful spherical specimen of Spanish Onion, weighing seventeen ounces, exhibited by James Green, of Worcester: a plant of the esculent Hibiscus, or Okra, by a contributor whose name did not come to our knowledge; and at a very late hour, eight specimens of a green-colored vegetable called Squashes, by David J. Baker, of Worcester, from seed raised in Beaufort, N. C., and supposed to be indigenous to California.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee.

EDWIN CONANT, Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

EDWARD W. LINCOLN, *Secretary and Librarian.*

To the Members of the Worcester County Horticultural Society:

In rendering his report for his fifth official year, the Secretary once more takes occasion to congratulate the Society upon a season of unprecedented prosperity. It is true that the early promise of the spring was not realized, all hopes of fruition being literally nipped in the bud. But, in the increase and use of the library; in the wider diffusion of a taste for and knowledge of horticulture in its various ramifications; in the unexampled accretion to its membership; and, after and despite all, notwithstanding the disfavor of the elements and the ravages of *insects*, in the goodly yield of the smaller fruits and the passable crop and fair quality of those later and choicer, like the pear, the CORPORATION has great reason for rejoicing. If history *is* philosophy teaching by example, how much more may horticulture be concisely defined as the fruit of exact and practical experience?

The elements, as just stated, have been unpropitious. By reference to his diary, the Secretary finds the following entry, under the head of May 24:—"A clear, cool day, after a long-continued rain. Apprehensions are entertained of the effect upon seeds already planted, of so much moisture. Cherries, so far as personal observation extends, do not promise well. Young and green currants are stripped off by the worm.". And again, on June 2d:—"Yesterday was the last of fifteen (15) upon which consecutively rain has fallen to a greater or less degree. Prospects of a good crop of fruit fall off wofully. And now the canker worm has come in to aid the other destructive agencies." The long continuance of wet weather above stated, synchronous as it was with the blossoming of the fruit trees, was productive (if the adjective can be used with propriety,) of the most disastrous results. Where the pollen was not washed away, or its fecundity left unimpaired, bees and other insect agents in its dissemination, found their flight impeded if not absolutely prevented. The *apple*, *cherry*, *peach* and *pear*, which had exhibited an almost unbroken mass of bloom disappointed expectation. And when, as it were to fill full the measure

of calamity, the *curculio* avenged itself upon man for his craven abandoment of the culture of the plum by betaking itself to the apple and cherry, as to the harder pear in a less degree; and the *canker worm* and *caterpiller* united their energies to the utter destruction of foliage; pomologists might well be pardoned for regarding with despair their pleasant and useful avocation. Yet, as by the sweat of his brow man shall earn his bread, so likewise it may be the design of Providence to teach us that in horticulture, as in all things else, the extremest diligence and patience are requisite to attain that reward which, in unequal measure, but nevertheless in some, is sure to repay the assiduous cultivator. Upon the first appearance of the canker worm your Secretary took some pains to note its apparent course and line of devastation. The following memorandum was the result of his observation on the 8th of June:—"On Pleasant street, from Captain Dana's house to Ashland street, a belt of cherry trees is entirely denuded of foliage. The lindens are somewhat harmed, the elms scarcely. Upon the old common but few traces of the ravages of the canker worm are discerned. Cutting of the grass, then unusually tall, commenced on the 5th inst. The question suggest itself whether the different species of measuring-worms can propel themselves with the requisite facility where the grass is yet unmown? Trumbull street was reasonably exempt, although betraying signs of the destructive presence. On Front street the elms were untouched; the lindens were slightly attacked."

The observation of your Secretary, limited as it necessarily was, in the busiest portion of the year, was mainly restricted to those portions of the city of Worcester in which, as he stated in his report last year, the CHERRY usually manifests the most luxuriance and vigor: and even in this adverse season he was surprised to find what a handsome yield there was of this much abused and greatly underrated fruit. But also, as then noticed, of the lighter colored varieties, since the Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, &c., were almost wholly and universally failures.—Has *color*, as heretofore asked, aught to do with this?

The direction of your Secretary, as already mentioned, was guided and substantially limited by the line of development of the cherry. But the fact was too patent not to obtrude itself plainly upon his attention, that the path of the canker-worm is evidently governed by fixed laws: what these are remains to be determined. No agency appears so well adapted to this end, whether from profession or practice, as Horticultural Societies, fostered by the encouragement of the State. Generous bounties, wisely offered and discreetly bestowed, may possibly, nay probably, arrest the career of an "insect-enemy of man," whose ravages are to be computed only by the estimate which may be placed upon the fruit crop of the Commonwealth. One of your Vice-Presidents, and an accomplished and learned member of our Society, has expressed the opinion to the Secretary that the worm in question travels from the northeast. There can be little or no doubt that he has done his worst in Middlesex county, which goes so far to confirm that theory. But, in this city, from their first appearance on Pleasant street, they moved *toward* and not *from* the north, scarcely reaching Cedar street before the time for their final disappearance. This and kindred questions,

whereof the importance cannot be overrated, should awaken public concern and enlist official and scientific investigation.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which has accomplished so much for Pomology in its long and useful career, and which bids fair, under its present administration, to exceed whatever it may have achieved in the past, proposes to memorialize the General Court for a suitable act to facilitate the destruction of this pest. May it not become this Society, not the youngest in years of its compeers, and likely not the least useful, to co-operate in an effort that appeals to all our sympathies as horticulturists, and, failing the success of which, all our hopes and labors must apparently prove vain!

The Secretary would state, in this connection, that he has received a printed circular announcing that "The publication committee of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia purpose to publish, and issue gratuitously, an occasional bulletin, under the title of the '*Practical Entomologist*,' in which papers on the insects injurious and beneficial to vegetation will be given for the benefit of the American farming interest."

The committee add that "It is not with any intention of prescribing nostrums that we undertake the publication of this bulletin; we cannot cure where we do not understand the diagnosis of the case; we recommend neither foolish obstructions around the trunks of trees which winged insects can surmount, and their larvæ have neither the desire nor the necessity to pass: nor expensive decoctions, which hurt the plant and which the insect survives,—we simply desire, by means of original papers, to bring out the true history of each and all of our obnoxious insects; and it is believed that, this attained, simple means will suggest themselves by which the evil may be subsided—in certain cases such easy remedies as burning the stubble and vigorous fall plowing.

The sole aid which the committee solicit is, that all who feel interested in their design will give them, from time to time, by letter or otherwise, such information as may result from daily observation, and forward alcholic phials containing such specimens of the noxious insects in any vicinity as may be collected, for determination and study, to the secretary of the Entomological Society, at No. 518 South Thirteenth street, Philadelphia."

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has also initiated action, upon a subject to which many of your members are painfully alive, by appointing a committee to consider and report upon the "*Ravages of Birds*." In the opinion of your Secretary, and of many closer observers than himself, it is not asserting too much to deny the possibility of raising the small fruits, or even the grape, if the robin and cat-bird are suffered to multiply, as of late, under the safeguard of law. The former bird may be a fitting theme for sentiment but his true place is in a *Pie*. Like the wild Indian, the world would be better without him. No one ever saw him pick up a worm or insect of any kind when any variety of fruit could be obtained. The common hen, if allowed to run, would do more good and steal infinitely less. In a timely and vigorous communication to the Gardener's Monthly, Mr. W. C. Strong, of Brighton, Mass., declares that his name should be spelled with two *o's*. He adds that "he will

not touch the caterpillar; he has no relish for the canker-worm; he is of no service whatever against the curculio, his little work might be done with a thousandth part of the expense in other ways. He is a confirmed robber and spoiler. Wherefore, my verdict is that he be banished from all our fruit gardens. Fruit-growers have only to protect the bird, and allow him to multiply, to learn that the evil grows to be intolerable." That this question of the "*Ravages of Birds*" deserves more careful attention than it has hitherto received is made clearly apparent from an incident that recently transpired in England. At the last meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, almost synchronous with your Annual Autumnal Exhibition, the learned and venerable Dr. Crisp is reported to have shown that "sparrows were not, as so generally thought, friends of the farmer, but destroyed several pounds of wheat to one worm; whereas the hornets, against which there is so much enmity, destroy maggots and other hurtful things." Several gentlemen arose to defend the sparrow, but Dr. Crisp "showed several hundred sparrow-gizzards, which revealed grains of wheat, but no worms at all!" And yet this sparrow is now recommended to be imported into our own country, in which we are already afflicted with the robin, alike saucy and useless, and the cat-bird—congener of everything that is, or ought to be inside of the Baton Rouge, or other penitentiary.

On Thursday, May 4th, your Secretary received, for distribution, from the Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington, four (4) bags of potato oats, containing one (1) quart each. On the 17th of September ult., four (4) bags of wheat, of like quantity, came to hand from the same munificent source. These, with some small packages of onion, lettuce and turnip seeds, represent the benefit of said department, for the current year, to this Society. Of what advantage it is likely to be in future can be judged from the fact that the only gentleman of enterprise or sagacity officially connected with it has just been dismissed by the Commissioner.

The Summer Exhibitions have been maintained with marked success. Notwithstanding the unpropitious character of the season, of which it may well be doubted whether the rains of spring or the drought of autumn was the worst, the number of entries, thanks to the enterprise of our florists, developes a great increase over 1864. And undoubtedly to this attraction is attributable the remarkable and gratifying augmentation in our list of members, more especially of the fairer portion of the community. Where it requires so little effort and time to adorn our library room and fill our stands; knowing, as they must, the signal advantage of such displays to the Society, ever increasing since the initiation of these exhibitions, and simultaneously enlarging our membership; is it too much to ask or hope for a continuance of that co-operation, if not for its more earnest development in this most beautiful and fascinating portion of our province?

A tabular statement of the entries, or number of articles of each variety exhibited during the present official year, exclusive of the display at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, is herewith presented. *That* period was covered by

the elaborate and exhaustive address of the President. In contrasting the various years comprised in this table, it must be borne in mind that two months less are embraced in 1865 than in any of its predecessors, owing to the change in the time of holding the annual meeting.

Anno Domini.	Strawberries.	Raspberries. Cherries. Grapes. Currants. Gooseberries.	Apples.	Pears.	Flowers, Plants, &c.	Total.	Increase.
1862	29	98	160	512	632	1443	
1863	44	83	366	374	616	1488	45
1864	36	79	140	184	1008	1507	19
1865	48	104	41	161	1643	2062	405

Strawberries show a slight, yet material increase. The wet weather in the spring of the year tended essentially to aid in forcing forward the plants, while the greater attention bestowed upon the culture of this most delicious fruit augmented the number of exhibitors and the quality of their contributions. As usual, since its first introduction, the *Triomphe de Gand* bore off the palm of excellence. For four successive years, as in 1864, was it shown by the same gentleman who, in that year, illustrated the final perseverance of this saint among berries. Under proper culture, in this locality at least, there can remain slight doubt that it is one of the most valuable varieties for general purposes that has yet been introduced. Of the new and highly lauded Agriculturist, nothing can yet be said. It has been too lately introduced for its character and value to be sufficiently tested. Apprehensions are, however, entertained of its sexuality, and also of its hardihood.

But little can be said of Raspberries, Currants, Gooseberries, &c. Of the former, your Secretary exhibited Brinckle's Orange, which were much commended, as they were ever elsewhere, for superior appearance and flavor. Very fine specimens of Doolittle's Black Cap, grown by one of our most skillful cultivators and valuable trustees, O. B. Hadwen, elicited merited praise, more particularly as the product of the first season. What they may become, to infer from their development of wood, the present season, your Secretary, being neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, ventures not to predict. The currants of Mr. Ripley, to whose generous contributions and intelligent interest the Society may ascribe a great share of the success which has attended its weekly exhibitions, were remarkable for excellence, as likewise were those of Mr. Grout for variety. The latter gentleman, it should be remarked by the way, having deserted us, poor rustics, and gone abroad to disport himself in the "bosky dells" of England and her more artificial attraction—Kew Gardens. It is gratifying to be able to record, as your Secretary does with mingled surprise and pleasure, that after being privileged to inspect the celebrated Black Hamburg vine of those fairy regions, he returns with his faith in the *Concord* augmented almost to frenzy.

Of Gooseberries, sound and healthy specimens were presented by the Judge of the Worcester Police Court, and, conformably to his own practice, officially, they were immediately "seized and condemned." Later, Mr. Gideon Harris, of Northville, displayed a collection of varieties that evinced either singular good fortune or admirable tact in culture. Still, it continues questionable if the fruit, except to a comparatively few palates, is worth the trouble and uncertainty of its culture. Whether, in fact, the rapidly swelling host of insect enemies to the currant do not more imperiously require our attention to the preservation of a fruit of which we shall not appreciate one-half the value until, by inattention or indolence, it is irrevocably lost.

Of Grapes, the display at the annual autumnal exhibition was unprecedented in the history of the Society. Varieties were then and there contributed, of handsome appearance, novel origin, and good promise, as respects both the quality of the fruit and the hardihood of the vine. As this is an official report, and not a medium for advertisements, the names, and fancied or assured merits of those varieties, may be left to the trumpet of their originators which, in September last, to the personal knowledge of your Secretary, "gave no uncertain sound." Since our autumnal exhibition, nothing of consequence, as the product of the vine, has been shown, if exception is made of a few Rogers' Hybrids, No. 4, in good condition and quality; and fewer still of No. 15, badly mildewed, from Mr. J. C. Lovell, of West Boylston. As regards other varieties, in this immediate vicinity, of what the mildew spared, the cat-bird and robin can make the fullest report.

The causes of the lamentable failure in the crop of Apples and Pears are well known. To allude to them here, much more to recite them, would be a work of supererogation. Suffice it to repeat, once for all, that if the Pomologists of this great agricultural and horticultural county do not intend to surrender the cultivation and use of the apple, they must take immediate, effective and thorough measures to rid themselves, and their trees alike, of the *canker worm*, the *caterpillar*, the *coddling moth*, and the *curculio*. No holiday task, certainly; but neither was that of our ancestors, if different in degree and nature. Yet they went doggedly and sturdily to work. How effectually they accomplished what they set themselves to do, and extirpated their foes, let him tell who would fain discover a lingering Pequot or Wampanoag within our borders. With "*Thorough*" for our motto in this good, as once before in an evil cause, and we may hope to assure the permanence of that most valuable of fruits, failing which pies would miss their relish; Thanksgiving be shorn of one-half its glory; and the long evenings of winter, confined exclusively to whist and shagbarks, lose a chiefest attraction.

But few Vegetables have been laid upon our tables at the weekly exhibitions, and of these the most noteworthy were the sweet potatoes, raised by Mr. O. B. Hadwen. Owing to the favorable season for its especial genus, the Yokohama Squash, exhibited for the first time at the last annual exhibition, was developed in greater perfection. Your Secretary found his own doubled in size and advanced, in far greater proportion, as to quality. Mr. Isaac Mills, whose

profuse entries crowd the columns of our vegetable book, states that it is one of the most delicious varieties that he ever ate. He adds that, for fecundity, he never met with its equal. Your Secretary grew the weight of two hundred and fifty pounds (250 lbs.) upon a patch of ground, by measurement, once and a half times the area of this room. For *pies*,—nothing equals it but a robin,—scarcely a vegetable. But it still continues an unsettled question to what extent, if at all, it will supplant other and favorite varieties. This is certain, that no one need undertake its culture, with the least hope of success, who is not prepared to start the young plants in the house. When longer acclimated, a change of habit may render this precaution unnecessary.

The accession to our list of MEMBERS, during the ten months which constitute this official year, has been unprecedentedly large. While it would be too much to expect a continuance of such fortune in future, it is scarcely hazardous to assert that a display of energy and mutual co-operation, similar to that of which the results are before you, will at least merit, should it fail to achieve, a corresponding reward. The usual comparative table is appended :

In 1861	1	In 1864	49
In 1862	19	In 1865	106
In 1863	42		

The "*Transactions*" *of the Society* from 1857 to 1864, inclusive, so far as any record of them could be found, have been published, under your instructions. The cost of publication was enhanced by the increased price of paper and the unexpectedly large store of material exhumed from the files of the local newspapers. But it is believed that the Society will not have cause to regret the issue from the satisfaction expressed by all who have become possessed of it, and the additional fact that many who have lately joined our ranks admitted that a chief inducement for them to do so was derived from the assurance of thereby obtaining this publication. Its absolute value is not so much the positive knowledge therein contained, as the pregnant hints towards its attainment. The grateful acknowledgments of the Society are due to Messrs. Grout & Bigelow, of the city of Worcester, who kindly volunteered to take charge of the distribution, and have discharged their self-imposed task with equal patience and energy.

The LIBRARY is in good condition. Its increase is unavoidably moderate, but it is believed to keep pace with the requirements of the Society. The volumes, although much circulated and consulted, attest that careful use which might be predicated of horticulturists. A law of the United States exempts from duty all books and periodicals that are designed to be placed in public libraries. This provision has been availed of by your Librarian, who has been enabled, through the courtesy of Mr. Baker, of the Free City Library, to import the few French and English works that we require, at a material saving.

According to custom, a comparative statement is herewith furnished of the number of volumes taken out of the library during the two (2) years immediately preceding its transfer to its present location; the three (3) years that

succeeded; and the ten (10) months of 1865 to this day. Premising, of course, that this is exclusive of the number of books and periodicals that are consulted by members on the days when the library is accessible. Number of volumes taken out:

In 1860	72	In 1863	133
In 1861	64	In 1864	179
In 1862	114	Jan. 1, 1865, to Nov. 1, 1865	315

The following complete catalogue of the *Additions to the Library* during the current official year demands a simple explanation. It must be borne in mind that our volume of "TRANSACTIONS" was issued in May. Prior thereto some most valuable acquisitions, numbered in the list annexed from one (1) to sixteen (16) inclusive, were received in season to be entered in the general catalogue appended to that publication, as follows:

1. Horticulturist, 1 vol. 8vo. Bound. Vol. 19 of series.
2. Hovey's Magazine, 1 vol. 8 vo. Bound. Vol. 30 of series.
3. Gardeners' Monthly, 1 vol. 8vo. Bound. Vol. 6 of series.
4. Planter's Guide, 1 vol. Boards. Presented by Grout & Bigelow.
5. Agriculture of MASSACHUSETTS, 1863, second series, 1 vol. 8vo. Presented by C. L. Flint, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.
6. Agricultural Reports, OHIO, 1862, second series, 1 vol 8vo. C. L. Flint.
7. Agricultural Reports, OHIO, 1862, third series, 1 vol. 8vo. C. L. Flint.
8. Transactions of New York State Agricultural Society, 1861, 1 vol. 8vo. C. L. Flint.
9. Transactions of New York State Agricultural Society, 1862, 1 vol. 8vo. C. L. Flint.
10. Transactions of the American Institute, 1861, 1 vol. 8vo. C. L. Flint.
11. Transactions of the American Institute, 1862, 1 vol. 8vo. C. L. Flint.
12. Ten Acres Enough: 1 vol. 12mo. Purchased.
13. My Farm at Edgewood; by Ik Marvel; 1 vol. 12mo. Purchased.
14. Wet Days at Edgewood; by Ik Marvel; 1 vol 12mo. Purchased.
15. Poulterer's Companion; by C. N. Bement; 1 vol. 12mo. Purchased.
16. Poultry Yard; by Brown; Appendix by Allen; 1 vol. 12mo. Purchased.

All which are duly catalogued in the "Transactions." The following are supplementary:

17. Vegetables of America; by F. Burr; second and revised edition; 1 vol. 8vo. Purchased.
18. Treatise on the Insect Enemies of Fruit and Fruit Trees; by Isaac P. Trimble, State Entomologist of New Jersey. Part 1, vol. 1., quarto. The Curculio, and Apple or Coddling Moth. Purchased.
19. The Same; presented by Edward Earle.
20. Transactions of the Illinois Horticultural Society, 1861, 1862; 8vo., pamphlet; from W. C. Flagg, Secretary, in exchange for "Transactions."

21. Transactions of the Illinois Horticultural Society, 1863; 8vo.; from W. C. Flagg, Secretary, in exchange for "Transactions."

22. Dean's New England Farmer, or Geological Dictionary; 1 vol. 8vo.; boards; from John Milton Earle; printed at Worcester, by Isaiah Thomas, in 1797. (Duplicate.)

23. Revue Horticole, 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. Imported.

24. Saunders' Domestic Poultry; 12mo.; pamphlet. Purchased.

25. Sixteenth Annual Report of the Commissioners of New York Central Park; Hon. Wm. N. Green.

26. Seventh Annual Report of the Commissioners of New York Central Park; Hon. Wm. N. Green.

27. Eighth Annual Report of the Commissioners of New York Central Park; Hon. Wm. N. Green.

28. Florist and Pomologist, 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. Imported.

29. Journal of Horticulture, 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. Imported.

30. Journal of Horticulture, 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. Imported.

As respects the total increment, the opinion of your Librarian is, that both in form and substance it is superior to that of any preceding year, whereof record has been preserved.

The Librarian once more invites your attention to a liberality, heretofore well attested, and depicted on our walls: Mr. Edward Earle, to whom the Society has been so much indebted for an interest, that it is to be hoped he will not allow the board of Alien Commissioners wholly to *alien*-ate from us, generously donated, a copy of the costly, elaborate and valuable work of Dr. Trimble; the Librarian is thereby enabled to retain one copy for consultation by members, while another is released for circulation.

Judge Wm. N. Green has also enriched us by the gift of the three latest reports of the Commissioners of the Central Park of New York, of which publication it is to be regretted that we possess but desultory numbers. Let us trust that the Comptroller of that board of Commissioners, to whose ability and taste that Park owes so much of its accredited development will not forget that he may attribute some of his horticultural education, as well as of his faculty for landscape development to the thorough culture of his native county and to the charming scenery in which he was "to the manner born."

The Commonwealth professes great concern for the *morals* of its inhabitants. To secure *them* from depravement, it organizes a cohort of veterans and expends sums of money,—untold,—yet to be counted by-and-by. But meanwhile it overlooks the depredations to which the property of its citizens is subjected, who,—more especially the members of this Society,—find not even the reputed ashes of the Dead Sea left of their apples. Squashes have been robbed (*not rob(b)in'd,*) throughout the city of Worcester. If grapes and pears suffered, consult Dr. S. P. Miller,—as sound upon that theme as upon the teeth which are essential to their mastication. Mr. Charles Richardson early and seasonably reported the considerate kindness of his friends who left him three (3)

peaches out of a half bushel which he had cultivated with his wonted industry and watched with unusual hope.

Ought a Society, strong as is this, to suffer a longer continuance of such things, without at least attempting a remedy? We are often, and wisely, exhorted to plant for posterity: but at least let posterity and not our contemporaries gather the fruit of our labors.

IN MEMORIAM.

In concluding this report, which must have exhausted your patience and time in somewhat unequal proportion, the inexorable FATE of antiquity,—the sublime HOPE of Christian revelation,—compel us, not reluctant, to linger yet awhile in view of the faded, but indestructible chaplets of the *past*. One of our original members,*—a founder of this Society,—its first President,—who watched over its infancy, as he had so often and so tenderly done in more private relations, sleeps the sleep of the just, and the falling leaves of the forest softly bestrew his grave. For four (4) successive years were you indebted to his faithful and vigilant supervision. The residence of your Secretary, in a distant portion of the republic, precluded his personal observation of that conscientious devotion, so characteristic of our late deceased associate in everything which he undertook, to the objects of this association. His biography should, as it doubtless will, do him justice in this respect, as in all others. But your Secretary can bear individual and willing testimony to the interest that he ever manifested in the prosperity of this corporation, since his own accession to the office with which he has for years been honored; and to his frequent inquiries after its welfare, in minute particulars that might easily be supposed to have escaped the failing memory of one, whose years far exceeded the limits of the Psalmist, and whose active participation in the direction of our affairs terminated almost a quarter of a century ago. While our "Transactions" were in course of publication, he repeatedly expressed regret that the sequence was ever interrupted: and also his desire to inspect the new issue, remarking that, apart from his interest in the subject matter, he should be influenced materially, by the appearance and style of the volume, in undertaking, what he had never left out of sight,—the printing of a catalogue of that library which owes its origin to him, and by which the recollection of his name and noble benefaction will be forever perpetuated. But in the language of the old French proverb—

L'Homme propose, mais Dieu dispose;"—

our poor human intentions do not always accord with the will of God.

Other and abler pens will do him completer justice. Yet a single trait has been recalled, so characteristic of that modesty which was not less his personal than professional illustration, that it merits to be recited in this connection; especially as it occurred during the term of his official relation to our Society.

One of his nearest relatives states that the duties of a presiding officer were so repugnant to him; that he was so diffident of public expression, although

* The late Dr. John Green.

transparent and even affluent in private converse, as to make him insist upon the near presence by his side, at any important meeting of this corporation, of one whose early enlistment in its organization, equally with his amenity of manner and mellifluous eloquence, are themes of delightful as of personal and public reminiscence. To propose the "yeas and nays" was not an insurmountable task for our late lamented associate; but, to respond to a complimentary sentiment, or to welcome an invited guest, "*Hic labor, hoc opus est.*," and for that,—who fitter or more willing than WILLIAM LINCOLN to come to the assistance of a friend!

The love of Flora shed a bloom and fragrance over their lives. Reposing in the same beautiful home of the dead, to procure and adorn which so much interest was manifested by either, she carefully covers the graves of both with her fast fading foliage. In the sere autumn, ripe in years and in honor, and attended by "troops of friends," we have borne our *physician*, our *president*, our *associate*, to that rest which he awaited so patiently, and for which he was so well prepared by the "daily beauty of his life." VALE!

EDWARD W. LINCOLN,

Secretary and Librarian.

HORTICULTURAL HALL, Worcester, Nov. 1, 1865.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society, 1865. Pphlt. 8vo.
Transactions of the Illinois Horticultural Society, 1861–2. Pphlt. 8vo.
Transactions of the Illinois Horticultural Society, 1863. Pphlt. 8vo.
Grape Culturist. By A. S. Fuller. 1 vol. 12mo. (Duplicate.)
Commerce and Navigation of the United States. 1862. 1 vol., 8vo.
Commerce and Navigation of the United States. 1863. 1 vol., 8vo.
Commerce and Navigation of the United States. 1864. 1 vol., 8vo.
Finance Report. 1864. 1 vol., 8vo.
Report of Commissioner of Internal Revenue. 1864. 1 vol., 8vo.
Report of Smithsonian Institute. 1863. 1 vol., 8vo.
Report of Smithsonian Institute. 1864. 1 vol., 8vo.
Rivers' Miniature Fruit Garden. 1 vol., 12mo.
Agricultural Department, Report of. 1864. 1 vol., 8vo.
Hovey's Magazine. 1865. Vol. 31, 8vo.
Horticulturist. 1865. Vol. 20, 8vo.
Gardener's Monthly. 1865. Vol. 7, 8vo.
American Agriculturist. 1865. Vol. 24, quarto.
Woodward's Country Homes. 1 vol., 12mo.
Woodward's Graperies. 1 vol., 12mo.
Transactions of Worcester County Agricultural Society. 1865. Pphlt. 8vo.
Country Life : By R. Morris Copeland. 5th edition. Pp. 912. 1 vol., 8vo.
Working Farmer. Vols. 15, 16. Quarto.
Working Farmer. Vol. 17. Quarto.
The Book of Roses. By Francis Parkman.
Cultivation of the Grape. By W. C. Strong.
Garden Flowers. By Edward S. Rand, Jr.
High Farming Without Manure. By M. George Ville.
Soiling Of Cattle. By Josiah Quincy.
New Book Of Flowers. By Joseph Breck.
Rural Register. 1864–5–6. 1 vol., 12mo.
Country Gentleman. Vols. 25, 26. 1 vol, quarto.

MEMBERS ADMITTED SINCE MAY 11, A. D. 1865.*

Names.	*Residence.*
Luther H. Bigelow,	Worcester.
Charles M. Bent,	"
George A. Brown,	"
Everett W. Bigelow,	West Boylston.
Mrs. George G. Burbank,	Worcester.
Miss Carrie A. Burbank,	"
Mrs. Daniel S. Burgess,	"
Elbridge Boyden,	"
Miss Caroline Barnard,	"
Mrs. Mary M. Bancroft,	"
†Mrs. John E. Bacon,	"
W. W. Cook,	"
Mrs. Joseph Curtis,	"
Mrs. Simeon Clapp,	"
Frank Loring R. Coes,	"
Charles A. Chase,	"
Mrs. Charles A. Chase,	"
Frederick A. Clapp,	"
Mrs. Calvin Dyer,	"
Miss Hattie L. Dyer,	"
Daniel F. Estabrook,	"
Miss Sarah F. Earle.	"
Miss Ann Eliza Farnum,	"
Miss Mary J. Farnum	"
Miss Annie R. S. Fox,	"
Mrs. Edward R. Fiske,	"
Arthur A. Goodell,	"
Dorrance S. Goddard,	"
William L. Gray,	"
Miss Elizabeth Grey Gordon,	"
Christopher Gunderson,	"
Miss Lizzie Grout.	"
Mrs. Charles W. Gilbert,	"
Henry Glazier,	"
Moses D. Garfield,	Sutton.
Church Howe,	Holden.
Addison A. Hunt,	Shrewsbury.
Daniel M. Hemenway,	Millbury.
John E. Harrington,	"
Alba Houghton, Jr.,	Worcester.
Holloway Harrington, Jr.,	"
Edwin Haven,	"
Mrs. C. Willard Hamilton,	"
Willard Jones,	"
Mrs. Sarah A. Kimball,	Worcester.
Dr. Francis H. Kelley,	"
Thomas M. Lamb,	"
Benjamin Lewis,	"
Lewis Lewisson,	"
Mrs. Lucy A. Merrifield,	"
Charles H. Morgan,	"
Charles Madows,	"
Miss Susie S. Messinger,	"
Henry Marble,	Millbury.
Mrs Jas. H. Newton,	Holyoke P. O. Ms.
Mrs. D. H. Paine,	Worcester.
Mrs. Sumner Pratt,	"
Miss. Emma A. Pratt,	"
Frederick S. Pratt,	"
Edward R. Pratt,	"
James, R. Pierce,	"
George R. Peckham,	"
Mrs. Sallie Phelps,	"
Miss Sarah D. Phelps,	"
Miss Mary R. Phelps,	"
Miss Deborah Phelps,	"
Miss Helen E. Phelps,	"
Miss Sarah E. Read,	"
Israel M. Rogers,	"
Mrs. Charles Richardson,	"
Mrs. David Scott,	"
Mrs. George Sumner,	"
George Sumner,	"
Miss Harriet A. Smith,	"
J. Sargent Smith,	Leicester.
W. A. S. Smyth,	Worcester.
Lyman J. Taft,	"
Mrs. Lyman J. Taft,	"
Henry G. Taft,	"
Edward C. Taft,	"
Mrs. Peter J. Turner,	"
Benjamin Thayer,	"
Miss Addie L. Tower,	"
Miss Mary G. B. Wheeler,	"
Mrs George W. Wheeler,	"
Miss H. F. Williams,	"
Miss Mary E. Williams,	"

* Date of last publication of " Transactions."

† Since deceased.

SELECT FRUITS RECOMMENDED BY THE SOCIETY.

APPLES.

Early.—Red Astrachan, Sweet Bough, Duchess of Oldenburg, Williams' Early Red, Worcester Spy*, Summer Pippin.*

Autumn.—Mother, Gravenstein, Porter, Shepard's Sweeting*, Leland's Spice*, Fameuse*, Hubbardston Nonsuch, Holden Pippin.

Winter and Spring.—Rhode Island Greening, Yellow Belleflower†, Jewett's Red†, Baldwin, Washington Royal†, Ladies' Sweeting*, Tallman Sweeting, Northern Spy, Roxbury Russet.

PEARS.

Amateur Culture.—Doyenne d'Ete, Rostiezer, Dearborn's Seedling, St. Ghislain, Washington, Belle Lucrative, Flemish Beauty, Henry IV, St. Michael Archange, Benrre Superfin, Glout Morceau.

General, or Market Culture.—Beurre Giffard, Bartlett, Paradise d'Automne, Seckel, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Marie Louise, Fulton, Sheldon, Swan's Orange, Doyenne Boussock, Beurre Bosc, Urbaniste, Beurre d'Anjou, Duchesse d'Angouleme (on Q.,) Winter Nelis, Lawrence (on P.,) Doyenne du Comice, Vicar of Winkfield.

CHERRIES.

Amateur.—May Duke, Knight's Early Black, Black Tartarian, American Amber, Downer's Late, Black Eagle.

GRAPES.

Amateur.—Delaware, Diana. General.—Hartford, Prolific, Concord.

STRAWBERRIES.

Amateur.—Hovey's Seedling, Jenney's Seedling, Jenny Lind, Triomphe de Gand. General.—Wilson's Albany Seedling; Russell's Prolific—*on trial.*

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* Varieties recommended as "promising well."

† Varieties recommended for "Amateur cultivation."

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

WORCESTER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

For the Year 1866,

COMPRISING THE ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT HILL; THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY; AND THE ANNUAL REPOPT OF THE SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN FOR 1866.

——Also,——

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY; A ROLL OF THE ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY AND A LIST OF THE SELECT FRUITS AS REVISED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE SOCIETY.

From EDWARD W. LINCOLN, Secretary.

WORCESTER, MASS.:

PRINTED BY EDWARD R. FISKE,

Opposite Foster Street Depot.

1867.

PREFACE.

At the Annual Meeting of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, holden on Wednesday, the seventh day of November, A. D. 1866, on motion of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, it was unanimously voted :—

That the Transactions of the Society, comprising the Address of the President and the Reports of the several Committees at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, with the Report of the Secretary and Librarian just delivered, be printed for the use of members, under the supervision of the Standing Committee on Publication.

The brevity of some of the Reports is greatly to be regretted. Whether this was caused by lack of time or paucity of material, in either case the effect is the same. The Society would derive much benefit, to be shared in an almost equal degree by the general community, if the accomplished members whom it details to their necessary, if irksome task, in addition to a bare statement of the awards of Premiums, would give, at greater length and with more precision, the chief and moving inducements to their action. The publication of the Transactions having been resumed as a settled policy, it is to be hoped that this suggestion may bear fruit worthy of the Pomologists to whom it is addressed.

Horticultural Hall,
Worcester, Mass., March, A. D. 1867.

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ADDRESS

OF

J. HENRY HILL, President,

At the Twenty-Seventh Annual Exhibition of the Society. Delivered on Thursday Evening, September 20, *at* 8 *o'clock.*

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Worcester County Horticultural Society:

I fully recognize the danger I incur of being charged with repetition, yet I cannot deny myself the pleasure of congratulating you upon the eminent success of your present exhibition—a pleasure all the greater, in that the success comes at a time when we have least expected it, and when its presence is all the more grateful. The Society are under great obligations to those of our friends who have labored so diligently, and contributed so generously to ensure that success.

The month of May, with its buds and heavy bloom, seemed to warrant us in expecting an abundant harvest for the autumn. But instead of the generous fruition which we then so confidently looked to, we have but a limited amount of fruit of any kind, while with some varieties, the crop has almost entirely failed. Numerous theories as to the cause are put forward, and urged with various degrees of confidence, but as yet none seem altogether satisfactory. We have now the fact before us, and the subject is certainly worthy of our patient investigation that we may, if possible, discover a remedy, and apply it in the future. For this present, we certainly should be content, inasmuch as Pomona has done all, and more than we had reason to expect, and Flora has fairly out-done herself, gracefully coming to the rescue when her services were most needed, and her presence most welcome.

It will be seen by comparison, of the entries of this year, with those of former exhibitions, that the contributions, while they have improved in the apple department, slightly, from last year, have, in all other fruits, sadly fallen off. And in passing along the tables, the commendable effort of the contributors, to produce their best specimens, is plainly noticeable, while each contributor is ready to excuse the absence of the usual excellence in his collection. But each one seems to have done all he could, which is all we have any right to expect. We can only hope that another year will be sufficiently favorable for the growth of the various fruits, to restore us to our former position.

The examination and comparison of the several lists of fruit, contributed at our different annual exhibitions, from the earliest days of our history to the present time, would prove a curious, and not altogether profitless, study. It would disclose to us many facts which, if we ever knew, we shall find we have entirely forgotten. It would show us that of the names contained in the meagre catalogue of pears, for instance, in our earlier years, a great proportion have become quite obsolete—have been dropped out of sight altogether—and the fruit which they represented, once enjoying an enviable reputation, for excellence, has been discarded as unworthy of cultivation, and comparatively worthless, and its place supplied by varieties of more excellent quality. In those times, too, the general contributor was seldom or never without his offering of peaches and plums—fruits now rarely seen upon our tables. A dozen years since, it was by no means an uncommon thing for cultivators to exhibit from five to ten varieties of the peach, and in some instances, as many as thirty or more—many of them rivalling, and even excelling, in size and excellence, the finest fruit of that kind which we now receive from other markets. The same thing, to a considerable degree, might be said of the plum. Now, when any of these fruits are placed upon our tables, we look at the contributor in amazement at his development of skill manifested in their growth and production.

Now all these things should teach the Horticulturist a lesson—which is, that his work is never finished—that however excellent the fruit may be which he produces this year, and to whatever degree of success he may consider he has carried the cultivation of it, there are higher degrees of excellence to be attained, and more choice varieties yet to be discovered and propagated, by patient and plodding toil and experiment. Another lesson is taught him, and that is, never to despair in his attempts to cultivate the more coy and delicate varieties of fruit—that though the peach and the plum may fail for a year, or a series of years, even ; still, careful and pains-taking cultivation and persistent effort will at length be rewarded by an abundant harvest of those kinds of fruit which many had given up as being beyond their power and skill to produce.

The weekly exhibitions have been kept up through the year ; with what success and with how much interest, on the part of members of the Society, the weekly publication of contributions from the accurate pen of your Secretary will sufficiently attest. The influence which these weekly meetings have, in connection with the increasing use of your excellent library, is being every year more sensibly felt. Formerly, the amateur cultivator had it all his own way. Now he finds rivals springing up on every side, and the contest for the premiums of the Society is quite as often decided against him as otherwise. In all this, the community is the gainer, and the work thus commenced will eventually prove of incalculable benefit to all classes ; and the amateur cultivator will feel rewarded that so great a good has resulted from his example.

The circle of this influence is plainly extending ; it is demonstrating to some of us here, that have been slow to realize it, and more in the other towns, who could not be convinced of it, that our Society is really what its name imports—a *County Institution*. Sometimes, heretofore, it has been almost painful to

observe the timidity with which contributors from other towns have brought in their fruit—a timidity resulting from a fear, more fancied than real, that the attempt to compete with amateur cultivators in the city would only result in disastrous failure. The premium list for this, and a few years past, showing how many premiums go *out* of the city, will, it is hoped, have a tendency to create confidence in this direction, and to interest all cultivators, in whatever town in the County they may chance to reside, in our efforts, and command their co-operation. We claim the whole county as within our jurisdiction, and invite all within its limits to join us in our labors. And every local society which springs up within our borders, we shall welcome as one of the children of this parent society, and extend to it our most cordial welcome and hearty sympathy.

The financial condition of the Society remains substantially unchanged. The sources from which the Society derives its income are the same as heretofore. The stores, from which a very large proportion of it comes, are occupied by tenants, under leases for a term of years, wherein the rent reserved is very much less than other stores, of no better accommodations and location, now command. These leases will expire in April next, when it is confidently expected that a much larger revenue will be received from them than is now paid.

Meanwhile, the expenses of the Society are no less. Every thing that is incumbent upon us to do, about the property of the Society, is at a very much increased cost. Even our taxes are increasing to fearful proportions. Our City Fathers, doubtless desiring to continue in the good graces of their constituents, and at the same time spend money with a profuse liberality, point us with an apparently triumphant satisfaction to the fact that they have succeeded in diminishing the rate of taxation; but they *forget* to inform us, with what a charming dexterity they have, at the same time, multiplied the *thousands* to be taxed, making the burden more grievous to be borne than before; a burden which we cannot well escape, except by resorting to the popular mode, a very inconvenient one for us, as a society, to adopt, of disposing of our real estate, and investing the proceeds in Government securities!

By a vote of the Society, passed at the last annual meeting in November, in addition to the transactions for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, those from eighteen hundred and forty-seven to eighteen hundred and fifty-one, inclusive, have been published in an attractive form, and are now ready for distribution to members. It will be found that the records, during the period last mentioned, are far from being complete; for in compiling them, to use the language of the first historian of the Society, "The sources of information have not been easily accessible. 'Tradition's voice was sometimes lost in the distance. The records of the Society were in more than one instance dumb; and loquacious files of newspapers talked of other things." But barring these deficiencies which could not, from lapse of time, be supplied, we have now a tolerably connected written history from the commencement of our operations to the present time.

I cannot but think that the action of the Society, in this respect, will be hereafter regarded as wise—more wise than to allow so many years to pass without

any permanent publication of our proceedings, and thereby, as in the present instance, force all the labor and expense for publishing, which belong to many years, into one or two. This results, too, in consequence of the delay, in obtaining, at the best, but an imperfect history of our transactions, for future use and reference. It has sometimes been suggested, and indeed, I think I may safely say that it is a favorite plan, of some, that we might dispense with our annual publication, and furnish our reports to the newspaper press, obtaining a far more extended hearing. As a matter of immediate economy, this plan certainly has its merits. But a Society of the importance of our own, *should* be able to furnish much and valuable information; and that information, if worth anything to the public, is worth preserving in a permanent form. While the newspaper press is the proper and acknowledged vehicle of information upon subjects of a transient character, it is the last place for matter intended for permanent preservation, and to be used for general reference afterwards. And I half suspect that those having the most generous confidence in this plan, would have their faith somewhat shaken by service upon a Committee charged with the duties which have fallen to the lot of your publication Committee for two years past.

It seems, rather, a more rational, and a far better way, to put our history in a permanent form as we make it. The labor then is not onerous, the expense comparatively trifling, and we are far more certain of correctness and authenticity, as well as completeness. When we arrive at the point when our operations, as a society, are not worthy this treatment, we may fairly consider that the mission of the association is fulfilled, and its members may safely repose from their labors in its behalf.

Entertaining these views, I am happy in being able to leave this matter of publication in its present condition, requiring in future, the publication, in each year, of the transactions of the Society, for that year only. And I cannot forbear repeating my conviction of its importance, and expressing a hope that these annual publications may continue so long as our Society has an active existence.

Intending, at the next annual meeting of the Society, to retire from the position which I have held by your favor for the three last years, I avail myself of the present opportunity to thank you for the uniform kindness and courtesy which has been extended to me in all my official relations, and to express the hope that my successor, although he cannot feel a deeper interest in the objects and welfare of the society, may bring to the discharge of his duties more ability and leisure than I have been able to do.

REPORTS.

REPORT ON APPLES.

Samuel H. Colton, *Chairman;* John C. Ripley, J. Frank Allen, Dr. Rufus Woodward, Thomas R. Norcross, of *Worcester;* Newell Wood, of *Millbury;* and S. A. Knox, of *Grafton.*

The Committee appointed to award the Premiums offered on Apples, beg leave to report:

That the number of contributors this year, and the varieties, including every thing of the Apple kind exhibited, show a sad falling off from former exhibitions —and, to quote from the report made last year, "in quality the contrast between this and preceding years is scarcely less painful."

It was fondly hoped, that after two or three successive failures in our crop of Apples, we should be favored this year with a better supply—and the very abundant blossom last spring seemed to warrant us in the expectation. But our cherished hopes are again blasted, and we sigh for the by-gone times, when this most important production of our orchards was in plentiful supply at every one's door. And, while we all agree that there is a continued scarcity, we are not united in opinion as to the reason of the failures—and many are the speculations and theories advanced in support of fancied causes. Some attributing them to high winds, when the trees are in blossom; others, to cold weather or heavy rains; still others, to electricity, and the latest advanced theory is, that the blossom buds were fatally injured by the severe drouth of last year! To all which we have only to reply, Yankee fashion, by inquiring—if the causes named are correct, why it is that some trees, and orchards even, are comparatively full of fruit, while others near by have none at all. One of your Committee has two trees of the Early Sweet Bough variety, standing within twenty feet of each other, and both alike, as regards age, size, and situation; one of which produced a fair crop of fruit this season, while its fellow had not an apple on it.

But, while we do not feel competent to point out the causes, or recommend a remedy, we do not wish to be understood as despairing that we shall never again be blessed with the same bountiful crops as in former years. The fact of the repeated failures will stimulate us all to investigate the causes, and, if in our

power, to apply the remedy. In the mean time we must again be mostly dependent on more favored regions for our supply of this, the most valuable of all our fruit.

The Committee having examined the Apples exhibited, awarded the premiums as named below; and they desire to remark, in conclusion, that the exhibition is a very creditable one, considering the unusual small quantity raised in this vicinity—some of the specimens being nearly equal in size and appearance to those of former years.

APPLES.—For the best collection, 26 varieties, Josiah L. Woodward, of Millbury,..... $10 00

For the second best 31 varieties, S. A. Knox, of Grafton,..... 8 00

For the third best 25 varieties, Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester, a copy of "Harris on Insects."

For the best 20 varieties of 12 specimens each, Stephen S. Foster, of Worcester,..... 8 00

For the second best 20 varieties, E. M. Banning, of Worcester, a copy of "Harris on Insects."

For the best 12 varieties of 12 specimens each—and the Committee desire to call especial notice to this collection as a superior one for this season—to Henry Marble, of Millbury,..... 8 00

The second premium offered for this class is not awarded, no collection excepting Mr. Marble's having the requisite number.

For the first best 6 varieties of 12 specimens each, Cyrus White, of Millbury,..... 4 00

For the second best, 6 varieties, Wm. Howe, Jr., of Millbury,..... 2 00

For the best 8 specimens of the Gravenstein, L. Worcester, of Shrewsbury,..... 1 00

For the best 8 Porters, D. M. Hemenway, of Millbury,..... 1 00

For the best 8 Hubbardston Nonesuch, Francis McCracken, of Millbury,..... 1 00

For the best 8 Baldwins, Asa Allen, of Shrewsbury,..... 1 00

For the best 8 Northern Spy, S. A. Knox, of Grafton,..... 1 00

It may be proper to remark, that these were not included in Mr. K's premium collection of 31 varieties.

GRATUITIES.—The Committee also awarded the following gratuities:

For 27 varieties, W. W. Keyes, of West Boylston,..... 4 00

For 13 varieties, J. C. Lovell, of West Boylston,..... 3 00

For 11 varieties, Sumner Cook, of Worcester,..... 2 00

For 11 varieties, O. B. Hadwen, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For Hubbardston Nonsuch, Porter, Mother and Leland's Spice, Jos. Boyden, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For Hubbardston Nonsuch, Mother and Porter, D. B. Comins, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For Leland's Spice and Mother, Eli Johnson, of Worcester,..... 1 00

And $1 each to Mrs. H. Wheeler, of Worcester, and Adams Foster, of Holden, for the Porter and Orange.

All which is respectfully submitted,

S. H. COLTON, Chairman.

REPORT ON FLOWERS.

Dr. George E. Francis, *Chairman;* Mrs. Calvin Taft, Mrs. Daniel Tainter, Mrs. Charles L. Pierce, George Chandler, of *Worcester;* and Jona. D. Wheeler, of *Grafton.*

The Committee on Flowers and Plants, report the following award of Prizes:

For the best 20 variegated leaved plants, W. T. Merrifield,	$10 00
For largest and best collection of Stove and Greenhouse Plants, S. Salisbury,	8 00
For the second best collection, W. T. Merrifield, "Harris on Insects."	
Floral Designs.—For the best, W. T. Merrifield,	5 00
For the second best, Mrs. John C. Ripley,	2 00
Cut Flowers.—For the largest and best collection, S. Salisbury,	3 00
For the second best collection, Mrs. Daniel Tainter,	2 00
For the best Stand, Mrs. C. W. Hamilton,	2 00
For the second best do., Mrs. A. D. Foster,	1 00
For the best arranged basket or dish, Miss Frances M. Lincoln,	2 00
For the second best, Mrs. C. W. Hamilton,	1 00
Bouquets.—For the best pair, Mrs. A. D. Foster,	2 00
For the second best, W. T. Merrifield,	1 00
Roses.—None exhibited.	
Gladiolus.—For the best display, Mrs. Daniel Tainter,	3 00
For the second best, Mrs. A. D. Foster,	2 00
Asters.—For the best display, G. H. Estabrook,	1 00
Dahlias.—For the best display, Mrs. Jonas Brown, of Wilkinsonville,	1 00
Verbenas.—For the best display, Mrs. Daniel Tainter,	1 00

The Committee recommend also that the following Gratuities be given:

Joseph Lovell, for display of Verbenas and Asters,	1 00
James T. Pike, Asters,	1 00
Mrs. Daniel Tainter, Pinks,	1 00
Henry Buehler, Ivy from Heidelberg,	1 00
Mrs. J. C. Ripley, Basket,	1 00
Mrs. Daniel Tainter, Basket and Dishes,	75
Miss Maria Fox, Basket of Phloxes,	75
Miss Mary R. Phelps, Basket,	75
Miss Annie Fox, Sweet Peas,	50
Harvey Tainter, Dishes,	50
Miss Alice Scott, Display,	50

Mrs. Warren Williams, Bouquet,..... 50
Mrs. A. C. Boswell, Display,..... 50
Mrs. Jonas Brown, of Wilkinsonville, Asters,..... 50
Mrs. Wm. G. Holman, Seedling Verbenas,..... 50
Miss F. A. Richardson, Dish,..... 50
Miss Julia Green, Dahlias,..... 50
Mrs. Laura F. Barnes, of Shrewsbury, Bouquet,..... 50
Mrs. Samuel Mowry, Bouquets,..... 50

The Committee found a task of unusual difficulty in assigning the prizes for collections, of Stove and Green-house plants. If in one display the plants were of rather larger size, and more in number, in the other were more carefully grown specimen plants, and a greater number of interesting novelties.

They regret that the funds at their disposal do not allow them to bestow more liberal gratuities, and that time and space do not permit a more extended and detailed notice of the various contributions. They desire that honorable mention should be made of the vases of Cardinal Flowers, Fringed Gentians and Maiden-hair Fern, contributed by the Chairman; of the Vase of Flowers from Mrs. Mary G. Murdock, of Winchendon; of the Feather Grass from F. W. Paine; and of the Floral displays from Mrs. J. W. Cummings, and Mrs. Solomon Parsons, of Worcester; and of O. S. Mowry, of Shrewsbury.

For the Committee,

G. E. FRANCIS.

REPORT ON GRAPES, PEACHES AND OTHER FRUIT.

Francis H. Dewey, *Chairman:* B. Butman, D. Waldo Lincoln, Horatio Phelps, Chas. Richardson, of *Worcester;* and Paul Whitin, of *Whitinsville.*

The Committee deeply regret that their labors were greatly diminished, owing to the reduced number of entries.

The severe weather of last winter had been especially injurious to the fruits coming within their jurisdiction. Of Peaches, not a single specimen was presented, thus at least, postponing a realization of the hopes indulged last year, that we were again to welcome the beautiful, luscious peach as one of our assured fruits. Many members of the Society are so fortunate as to possess healthy, full grown peach trees; and we hope that another fall may witness many good specimens upon our tables.

The exhibition of Grapes was smaller, and specimens inferior to those last year.

We do not attribute this to any lack of interest in the cultivation of this fine fruit, but owing mainly to the lateness of the ripening season, and the effects of mildew.

There were 20 contributors in all. Wm. T. Merrifield, Esq., being much the largest contributor, exhibiting 15 varieties grown under glass, and 14 varieties of out door Grapes. No other person exhibited more than three varieties

grown under glass; and the Committee made no award of the first premium for Grapes grown under glass. They awarded the second premium to William T. Merrifield, "Harris on Insects."

A Gratuity to F. M. Marble, Grafton,.....$ 1 00
For the best collection of out-door Grapes, of not less than 6 varieties, William T. Merrifield,..... 6 00
For the second best collection, S. V. Stone,..... 4 00
Gratuity, George H. Estabrook,..... 1 00
For the best specimen of Delawares, Ichabod Washburn,..... 1 00
For best specimen of Concords, Horatio Phelps,..... 1 00
For best specimen of Dianas, Harvey S. Tainter,..... 1 00
For best specimen of Hartford Prolific, Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northborough,..... 1 00

No specimens of Isabella or Iona were thought worthy of a premium.

The following gratuities were awarded:

For Northern Muscadine, Horatio Phelps,..... 1 00
For Creveling, Edward Earle,..... 1 00
For Native Seedling, S. E. Slocumb,..... 1 00
For Rebecca, J. E. Harrington,..... 1 00

Plums.—

There were but three contributors. The Committee awarded for the best dish of 12 specimens to Joseph Boyden,..... 2 00
Gratuities, Mrs. Priestly Young,..... 1 00
Anthony Chase,..... 1 00

Quinces.—The exhibition of Quinces was small.

For the largest and best collection to C. W. Hamilton,..... 3 00
Gratuity, Horatio Slocumb,..... 1 00

Trusting that our successors in the coming year, will have a larger and more attractive field from which to make their selections, the above Report is respectfully submitted.

FRANCIS H. DEWEY, Chairman.

REPORT ON PEARS.

Stephen S. Foster, *Chairman;* John Milton Earle, John C. Newton, Emory Banister, David S. Messinger, of *Worcester;* and J. H. Moore, of *Charlton.*

The Committee on Pears, respectfully recommend the following award of premiums and gratuities:—

For the largest and best collection, of not less than three specimens of each variety, the first premium to John C. Ripley, of Worcester,$10 00
For the best twenty varieties of twelve specimens each, to Stephen S. Foster, of Worcester,..... 10 00

For the second best to Samuel H. Colton, of Worcester,..... 9 00
For the best fifteen varieties of twelve specimens each, to George T. Rice, of Worcester,..... 7 00
For the second best, to Ichabod Washburn, of Worcester, "Harris on Insects."
For the best ten varieties of twelve specimens each, to Benjamin Butman, of Worcester. "Harris on Insects."
For second best, to Joseph Lovell, of Worcester,..... 4 00
For the best five varieties, of two specimens each, to F. M. Marble, of Grafton,..... 4 00
For the second best, to Adam Foster, of Holden,..... 2 00
For the best twenty-four Seekel Pears on one dish, to Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northborough,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Bartletts, to Loring Coes, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Duchess d'Angouleme, to Timothy R. Green, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Louise Bonne de Jersey, to Mrs. Chas. Johnson, of Northborough,..... 1 00
For the best Lawrence, to Anthony Chase, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Sheldons, to Edward Earle, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Beurre Bosc, to Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northborough,..... 1 00
For the best 12 Flemish Beauty, to Joseph Boyden of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best Beurre d'Anjou, to J. F. Allen, Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Winter Nelis, to E. W. Lincoln,..... 1 00
For Doyenne du Comice, gratuity to E. L. Brigham,..... 1 00
For Durandeau, gratuity to J. F. Allen,..... 1 00
For his collection, gratuity to J. C. Lovell, of West Boylston,..... 2 00
For plate of Duchess d'Angouleme, gratuity to George Jaques, Worcester,..... 1 00
For his collection, gratuity to S. V. Stone, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For plate of Duchesse d' Angouleme, gratuity, to Mrs. Henry Wheeler, 50

STEPHEN S. FOSTER, Chairman.

REPORT ON VEGETABLES.

Edwin Conant, *Chairman;* Charles Belcher, Oliver K. Earle, Marshall Flagg, James Green, of *Worcester;* Josiah L. Woodward, of *Millbury.*

The Committee again congratulate themselves and the Society, upon the importance and merits of the Committee. We continue by the title of our rank, in the quiet possession of the Upper Chamber, and if some of us seem to hold office during life, or our own discretion, it is partly because we are not

afflicted with such legions of constituents as the unfortunate members of the lower House of Commons.

We respectfully report that although, as usual, there was not a full attendance of our number, but little difficulty was experienced in deciding upon the premiums and gratuities by the united voice of the members present.

There were forty-one contributors to the Exhibition, and two hundred and ninety-six parcels exhibited. The quantity and variety of articles was somewhat less than on some former occasions; a fact attributable to the unpleasant weather, but in quality they were well up to the average of previous occasions.

The three largest and best collections were highly meritorious, and not less so from the fact that their number of varieties was not remarkably large; and we deem it exceedingly desirable that quality rather than numbers or size should usually be the prime object of regard with exhibitors.

For the first in merit of these collections, the premium was awarded to Alden H. Sears, of Worcester,.....$10 00

For the second to Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester,..... 8 00

For the third, Harris's book on Insects injurious to vegetation, to Adams Foster, of Holden.

There was no attempt to secure the premium on Canada Crook-neck squashes; none were exhibited except in collections, and a single one of undoubted purity by D. M. Hemenway, of Millbury, the growth of 1865.

We award for the three best marrow squashes to Lucius H. Rice, of Worcester,..... 1 00

There was some hesitation in coming to this decision, but it was reached after the most careful examination.

For the three best Hubbard squashes, Peter Rice, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the three best Mammoth squashes, Charles Richardson, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the three best Turban squashes, George Sumner, of Worcester,... 1 00

No Yokohamas were offered.

For the largest squash, Valparaiso, weighing 64 lbs., Oliver S. Mowrey, of Shrewsbury,..... 2 00

For the second largest, do., an exceedingly rich looking yellow squash, which seemed a mammoth marrow, weight 43 lbs., Fordyce Maynard, of Shrewsbury,..... 1 00

Daniel Tainter's noble roots of celery, by his gardener, W. W. Cook, would have carried the premium on this article had the number been sufficient.

For the three best Savoy Cabbages,—for his Drumhead Savoys, O. B. Hadwen, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the three best Cabbages of any other variety—for his Stone-masons, Elisha Kelley, of Worcester,..... 1 00

For the three best Cauliflowers, Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester,..... 2 00

No premium could be more richly deserved, for these noble and perfect flowers were the observed of all observers. John Ring is Mr. Salisbury's gardener.

For the best twelve ears of Sweet Corn, Joseph Lovell, of Worcester, 1 00

Some doubt was entertained concerning the premium for the best twelve tomatoes, but it was finally awarded to Daniel Tainter for his Tilden Tomatoes, W. W. Cook being the gardener,..... 1 00

For his fine lot Water-melons, and his Muskmelons, was deemed to deserve a gratuity, C. Willard Hamilton, of Worcester,..... 1 00

A gratuity for his excellent Onions, Charles E. Parker, of Worcester, 50

A gratuity for very superior Swedish Turnips, George R. Peckham, of Worcester,..... 50

The Society are under obligations of gratitude to many other contributors, but it is impossible here, for want of time to particularize all of their various degrees of merit. T. W. Wellington exhibited thirteen varieties: Mrs. Solomon Parsons, 15, and Mrs. A. C. Boswell, 15, all of Worcester.

The other contributors are Edward W. Lincoln, Worcester; Harvey G. Upham, of Worcester; (prolific hops) Cyrus White, of Millbury; Walter J. Watson, Charles A. Keyes, and J. Henry Hill, of Worcester; F. R. Hodgman, of Millbury; (3 Squashes, 120½ lbs., from one seed) J. Nelson Jacobs, of Worcester; S. W. Howe, of Shrewsbury; L. W. Merrifield, of West Boylston; (a Hubbard Squash of 1865) George H. Estabrook, Mrs. James A. Fuller, and Perry Thayer, of Worcester; Newell Wood, of Millbury; Stephen S. Foster and Samuel B. Woodward, aged 13, of Worcester; Nathan Stone, of Shrewsbury; Horatio Slocum, of Sandersville; James T. Pike and George Weir, (Scotch Kail) of Worcester.

"The Club House Conserves Co.," having their office at 19 West St., Boston, exhibited cans of "Huckins' Patent Improved Tomato Soup," and invited a thorough test. This article, though in a sense a manufactured one, and from without the County, is nevertheless akin to the subjects in which the Society deals, and judging from the tests already made, is undoubtedly of intrinsic merit, highly concentrated, nutritious and wholesome, and deserving the fame it has acquired at the Parker House in Boston, and among the community at large.

I have been requested by a number of this Committee to suggest, for the action of the Society on a future and suitable occasion, the propriety of granting some authority, if not already existing, to issue medals or other tributes of honor for deserving articles of fruits and vegetables, artificially preserved for household use.

If the various garden esculents now so essentially useful in all civilized life, could be traced from their original wilding types, through all their progress to their present highly improved state, the history would be replete with interest, and would probably be found coincident with the advancing steps from savage life to the highest civilization reached by man.

Though we cannot now engage in that enquiry, we may be amused for a moment in the recollection that the great dramatist testifies incidentally to the gardens of the days of "the good Queen Bess," and enables us to know something of the green groceries which blessed the house-wives of that age. Indeed the poet's *cuisine* was well furnished, as Bardolph's nose afforded fire enough to cook anything, though it could be tempered down to "do the office of a warming-pan."

Leeks, garlic and onions were accepted as equally piquant for appetite, and ready terms to point a jest.

Bottom advises his "most dear actors" *at rehearsal*, to "eat no onions nor garlic, for we are to utter sweet breath."

Lafeu says, "mine eyes smell onions, I shall weep anon." Another character slanders the fair saying:—

> "And if the boy have not a woman's gift
> To rain a shower of commanded tears,
> An onion will do well for such a shift;
> Which in a napkin being close conveyed,
> Shall in despite enforce a watery eye."

Enobarbus was "onion-eyed," at the reverses of his master, Antony. The dubious tribute was paid to a lover's eyes, that they were "green as leeks."

The Welsh wore leeks in their caps on Saint Davy's day, as an honorable badge of military service in a French war, and Henry 5th was proud to observe the custom. For this custom, his Welsh general Fluellen, is insulted by Pistol, the bully, and the latter comes to grief, being required by Fluellen to eat a leek because it is repulsive. Fluellen cudgels the rogue for sauce, declares he will beat his pate four days, and compels him to eat the leek, skin and all; and then degrades him to a beggar, by forcing him to accept a groat to heal his pate, on pain of eating another leek, and being cudgelled again till he is converted into a small wood merchant.

Bottom attributed to mustard an ironical virtue of patience, and observed to master mustard seed that his kindred had made his eyes water. To peas-blossom he says, "I pray you commend me to mistress* squash, your mother, and to master peas-cod your father."

Viola disguised in man's attire appeared, "not yet old enough for a man nor young enough for a boy; as a squash is before 'tis a peas-cod, or a codling when 'tis almost an apple."

A Yankee house-wife would hardly use a watery pumpkin, but Mistress Ford says, however in another sense, "We'll use this unwholesome humidity, this gross watery pumpion."

Falstaff liked good cabbage better than good words ill spoken. He says, "if I have not fought with fifty of them I am a bunch of radish."

Biondello tells the apochryphal story that he "knew a wench married in an afternoon as she went to the garden for parsley to stuff a rabbit."

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*The word squash signified an immature pod of peas.

The garden was Almanac and Historical Register to Hostess Quickly, for she had known the fat knight "these twenty-nine years, come peas-cod time."

The fair Perdita offered marjoram and savory as fit for middle-aged men.

Justice Shullow was "for all the world like a forked radish with a head fantastically carved upon it with a knife;" and sweet Anne Page declared to her mother that she "had rather be set quick i' the earth and bowled to death with turnips" than to marry the French Doctor.

For the Committee,

EDWIN CONANT.

September 20, 1866.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

EDWARD W. LINCOLN, *Secretary and Librarian.*

To the Members of the Worcester County Horticultural Society:

At a special meeting of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, duly convened for that purpose at the room over Mr. Clarendon Harris' book store, on the 13th day of April, 1842—Dr. John Green of Worcester, President of the Society, in the chair—it was voted "that the act to incorporate Messrs. John Green, Anthony Chase, Frederic W. Paine, George W. Richardson, their associates and successors, by the name of the 'Worcester County Horticultural Society,' for the purpose of advancing the science and encouraging and improving the practice of Horticulture," be and is hereby accepted. This act, passed by the General Court of the Commonwealth, and approved by His Excellency, John Davis, (*clarum et venerabile nomen*) an honored fellow-citizen and an original member, has ever since endured as the charter of our existence. With what vicissitudes of good or evil fortune, with what alternations of fruitful or barren seasons, these twenty-five years have been replete; it were a waste of time if not otherwise unprofitable, to relate. Suffice it here to state that upon the 13th day of April, in the coming year, a quarter of a century will have elapsed since the society assumed a corporate form and being. In past years the members have been in the habit of holding triennial festivals. The occurrence of flagrant rebellion and the long continuance of a fierce civil war brought this custom into disuse. But it is respectfully submitted to the members of the Society, of whom almost, if not quite one-half of those living have acceded within the last five years, whether it might not conduce to the immediate benefit of all, to invite a closer acquaintance; and to their permanent welfare, to establish a more substantial monument of past progress. Our advance for the half decade just expired, sufficiently justifies the former suggestion. What practical shape shall be given to the latter remains to be determined upon a full consideration of the reasons hereafter to be adduced.

And the only feasible method within the power of the members, in the opinion of the Secretary, is to be found in the complete and speedy extinction of the present DEBT of the Society. Wisely incurred at the outset for the construction of our hall, largely reduced at times by close economy and, more than all, by a noble munificence of which we have had frequent examples from the same

source, it still continues, at the expiration of fourteen (14) years, to seriously embarrass our plans and hamper our usefulness. With an adequate rental for the estate, which we may anticipate with reason in the future, our inducements to contributors would be so great as to "compel them to come in." In diverse and many ways would it be in our power to incite to generous rivalry and to stimulate competition. If the veteran florist achieved, with customary facility, the Society's plate, not our poverty but calm judgment would prevent his humbler disciple from gathering a proportionate reward. Who shall say that the temptation might not prove sufficient, however inadequate in itself, to foster a habit and love of research into the illimitable and almost neglected domain of Nature wherefrom a remedy, if not preventive, for the ravages of the curculio, the coddling moth, the canker and currant worms; and latest, as worst of all, that potato worm which advices from the west represent as advancing eastward at the leisurely rate of fifty (50) miles per annum; may at length be discerned. That something must be done in the premises experience and reflection for the last six (6) years have fully convinced your Secretary. Of what should be attempted he is equally persuaded.

It is perhaps a bold recommendation—the increase of debt as a method of relief from existing obligations. Yet what other issue of escape from embarrassment remains to us, failing the plan which was recently so liberally inaugurated and has since been so feebly prosecuted? We might dispose of our Hall, hire a room for our library and the displays of flowers and fruit contingent and dependent upon its weekly opening, and use Mechanics Hall for our ANNUAL AUTUMNAL EXHIBITION. Then our revenue—minus taxation and the cost of official administration—would be exclusively applicable to the legitimate purposes of the Society. Of course the occupation of a hall, large as is that of the Mechanics Association, would exact of all our members for the success of the annual autumnal exhibition, their cordial, earnest, and untiring co-operation. With that, it is possibly not assuming too much to predict enhanced receipts, a more widely diffused interest, and a progessive development of the principal of that fund upon which we should have to depend for the construction of our future Horticultural Hall. Otherwise, continuing as at present, what remains and is incumbent upon us to do?

Our accommodations, ample at the time of the erection of the Hall, perhaps adequate in a series of very unfavorable seasons, are yet entirely too limited for a society such as this should be, and might easily be made. The aggregate population of the county, (for it cannot be too constantly repeated, even if our exoteric members choose by persistent neglect to attempt its dis-proof, that this is a *county* society,) may not be perceptibly increased. But the inhabitants of the city of Worcester, from whom our chief patronage is derived, whether in receipts for admission, or dues of membership, have swollen from fifteen thousand (15,000) to thirty-five thousand (35,000.) The recent large and gratifying addition to our numbers, chiefly of females, is attributable to the charming attraction of that very class of contributions for which we should be

chiefly indebted, and which yet add most to our embarrassment. For it is no exaggeration to assert, that the space occupied by flowers and plants in 1866, (and most richly was it deserved,) was two-thirds larger than that required by any similar display in previous years. Appreciate then your condition, if, besides the superb floral display of the current autumn, we had been compelled to find room for the apples, grapes, pears and vegetables of former years, not to speak of peaches and plums, for which we vainly look, but which as surely as that "seed time and harvest shall not fail," will yet re-appear.

The table appended will repay scrutiny, for it shows that the entries were, in:—

	1860.	1865.	1866.
Apples,	925		262
Grapes,		181	92
Pears,	973		445
Vegetables,		492	296

Or, in plain words, if simply the apples and pears of 1860, and the grapes and vegetables of 1865, had been equalled in 1866, as, by the concurrence of propitious seasons, may be the case even in the ensuing year, we should be constrained, allowing space for the flowers and plants of the late autumnal exhibition, to accommodate upon our tables two thousand five hundred and seventy-one (2571) plates in lieu of one thousand and ninety-five (1095.) It was once said of our city, when judicial vacancies were so frequent as almost to go begging, that "Worcester was equal to the emergency." Doubtless, in the case supposed, the committee of arrangements would do much that is usually impossible. But might they not also exclaim, in heaviness of heart, with a late deceased President of the Republic, "My sufferings *is* intolerable." To your Secretary the statement carries its own commentary. But, when to it we add the prospective and possible growth of Worcester, never increasing more rapidly; the partial defects in our present edifice, to which particular allusion is not more expedient than necessary, but of which the frequent and inevitable consequence should appear in the reports of the Treasurer; our unfortunate and insecure proximity to a theatre; and the fact that no enlargement of the present building is practicable without an additional outlay for land; are we not justified in looking around to see wherein our condition can be improved? There can be no dispute that the purchase of the present limited location was wise, in the infancy of the Society. There is grave question whether its permanent retention can be made desirable. But there is least question of all in the mind of your Secretary, that the taste which we especially seek to develope and the interest and co-operation that ought above all to be attracted, are not to be found now, as they assuredly will not be in the future, commorant upon that one of the streets of Worcester which, above all others, is best fitted for wholesale traffic.

We assume and profess to the community our ability to provide adequately for the contributions of all, not only who are now, but of those who may become members. Is it not our imperative duty, then, to look to the possible

requirements of the future? In at least two of the six years since your Secretary has held office, (and in one of the six there was no exhibition,) when the crop of apples and pears was only moderate, at least one-half of his own limited room was exacted for the display of specimens, for which purpose it cannot be spared and is besides utterly unfit. And there were no plants, of consequence, to demand such ample space and verge. At the late annual exhibition, three separate individuals offered to fill with cut flowers every stand in our possession. If we had owned the additional forty stands where could they have been placed. Ladies from abroad were obliged to return home with their flowers because there were no stands left in which to display them. Others from the city could not obtain a moiety even of what they wished. And, to follow an illustrious example and "swing around the circle," there would be no space available for them if procured. Shall we be faithful to our trust, if we fail to take timely warning from the experience of the past? Your Secretary, to whose notice this subject is continually, and often unpleasantly, presented, has felt that he should not discharge the obligations resting upon him did he not invoke for it your seasonable and earnest consideration.

The Library is in good condition, and, as will be seen by the customary comparative statement, has been very generally used. This increase of readers is one of the most encouraging signs of continued interest in the aims of the Society. The attention of those who consult these volumes is more closely attracted, their knowledge becomes enlarged, and the bread thus cast upon the waters re-appears, after many days, upon our tables. The whole number of volumes taken out, without reckoning those consulted in the library room, when open, was as follows:—

In 1860,	72	volumes.
In 1861,	64	"
[At this date the library was removed to its present quarters.]		
In 1862,	114	"
In 1863,	133	"
In 1864,	179	"
Jan. 1st, 1865, to Nov. 1st, 1865,	318	"
Nov. 1st, 1865, to Oct. 31st, 1866,	387	"

[In 1865 there was an alteration of the official year.]

During the past year the liberality of our friends has placed us under weighty obligations. A most valuable donation is that of Hon. Andrew H. Green, of the city of New York, comprising the 2d, 4th, and 9th Reports of the Commissioners of the Central Park, *quorum magna pars est*, accompanied by a promise of the numbers still deficient, should it be possible to procure them. Their value to a society like this is obvious upon the most cursory inspection. We are also indebted to our esteemed ex-president, George Jaques, for all the copies that he still retained of his original issue of the "Transactions" of this Society. By this generosity it is rendered possible to bind together the separate series into a complete whole, thereby supplying a connected history of the proceedings of the Society from its early organization to the present day.

The Librarian desires, however, to invite your particular notice to the magnificent donation, by the late "Worcester Agricultural Library Association" of this city, of the whole of their fine collection of books upon agriculture and its kindred pursuits. For various reasons, needless to be recited here, it became imperative, as it had long been desirable, to select some place of deposit for these volumes, which, while it afforded security, should at the same time leave them accessible for consultation. For this purpose, HORTICULTURAL HALL was considered admirably adapted, at least so long as used for its present purposes. Your Librarian cheerfully consented to assume any additional labor that the acceptance of this gift might impose, in consideration of the enhanced importance thus given to our existing collection. For it so happens that, although treating upon closely-related branches of the same science—for Horticulture is, at the most, but an off-shoot of what should in strictness be termed *Terræculture*—yet the two libraries, when united, are found to contain but few duplicates, forming, in fact, perfect complements of each other. Many of the works in this last edition are of exceeding value, among which may be particularly mentioned, "The London Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," in 19 vols., and "The Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland," in 14 vols. The entire collection comprises one hundred and ninety-six (196) volumes, as per printed catalogue, many elegantly, and all substantially bound:

Allen's American Farm Book.
" Diseases of Domestic Animals.
" Treatise on Cultivation of the Grape.
Allen's Rural Architecture.
Annual of Scientific Discovery, by D. A. Wells.
Agricultural Reports of Massachusetts—(gratis.)
American Angler's Guide (illustrated.)
A Tour round my Garden.
Albany Cultivator, 4 vols.
Brown's Field Book of Manures. (D)
Buel's Farmer's Companion.
Buist's Family Kitchen Gardener.
Blake's Farmer at Home.
Breck's Book of Flowers.
Barry's Fruit Garden.
Bridgeman's Young Gardener's Assistant.
Bridgeman's Fruit Cultivator's Manual.
Bigelow's Useful Arts, in connection with the Application of Science, 2 vols.
Boussingault's Rural Economy.
Bement's Poulterer's Companion.
Buchanan on Grape and Strawberry Culture.
Buist's Flower Garden Directory.
Blake's Agriculture for Schools.
Baucher on Breaking and Training Horses.
Butler's Philosophy of the Weather.
Brown's American Bird Fancier.
Brocklesby's Views of the Microscopic World (illustrated.)
Cole's American Fruit Book.
Cole's American Veterinarian.
Chorlton's Grape Grower's Guide.
Coleman's European Agriculture, 2 vols.
Cooley's Book of Useful Knowledge, containing 6000 Practical Receipts.
Cleaveland's Village and Farm Buildings.
Comstock's Mineralogy.
Dadd's American Cattle Doctor. (D)
" Modern Horse Doctor.
Dadd's Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse.
Dana's Muck Manual. (D)
Downing's Fruit and Fruit Trees (new edition.) (D)
Downing's Landscape Gardening.
Downing's Cottage Residences.
Downing's Country Houses.
Downing's Rural Essays.
Dixon & Kerr's Poultry Book.
Elliott's Fruit Grower's Guide.
Eastwood on Cranberry Culture.
Emerson's Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts.
Ewbank's Hydraulics and Mechanics.
European Life and Manners (by Coleman) 2 vols.
Fessenden's Complete Farmer and Gardener.
Farmer's Land Measurer.
Farmer's Barn Book.
Farmer's Every Day Book.
Flint's Treatise on Grasses and Forage Plants.
Fitch's Treatise on Insects.

Guenon's Treatise on Milch Cows.
Gray's Botanical Text Book.
Gardening for Ladies, by Mrs. Loudon.
Gardner's Farmers' Dictionary.
Gray's Agricultural and Literary Essays.
Gray's Manual of Botany (new edition, illustrated.)
How to choose a good Milch Cow.
Hitchcock's Elements of Geology.
Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, vols. 1 & 2.
Hind's Farriery and Stud Book.
Hooker's Icones Plantarum, (4 vols.)
Industry of Massachusetts—(gratis.)
Johnston's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology.
Johnston's Chemistry of Common Life, 2 vols.
Johnston's Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry.
Johnston's Notes on North America, 2 vols.
Johnston's Instructions for the Analysis of Soils.
Jaques' Practical Treatise on Fruits.
Knowledge is Power, &c., by Chas. Knight.
Kollar on Insects.
Kirby & Spence's Entomology (new edition.)
Leuchars on Hot-houses, Graperies, &c.
Linsley's History of Morgan Horses.
Liebig's Complete Works.
Lindley's Horticulture, by Downing.
Loudon's Encyclopedia of Agriculture (half calf.)
Low's Domesticated Animals of Great Britain.
Lyell's Elements of Geology.
Lyell's Principles of Geology.
Lardner's Lectures on Science and Art, 2 vols.
Lincoln's Botany.
Langstroth on the Honey Bee (new edition, illustrated.)
Loudon's Encyclopedia of Gardening (half calf.)
London Quarterly Journal of Agriculture half calf, uniform with Prize Essays, 19 vols.
Loudon's Encyclodedia of Plants (half calf.)
Munn's Practical Land Drainer.
Miles on the Horse's Foot and How to Keep it Sound.
Mason's Farrier and Stud Book.
Miner's Bee-keeper's Manual.
Mechanics' Own Book.
Nash's Progressive Farmer. (D)
Neill's Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Gardener's Companion.

☞ (D) signifies duplicate.

Nefflin's Method of Increasing the Yield of Milch Cows.
Natural History of Insects, by Professor Rennie, 2 vols.
Norton's Scientific and Practical Agriculture.
Porter's Chemistry and its application to Agriculture and the Arts.
Pardee on Strawberry Culture.
Parsons on the Rose.
Principles of Zoology, by Agassiz & Gould.
Prize Essays, and Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (half calf, 14 vols.)
Quinby's Mysteries of Bee-keeping.
Rodgers' Scientific Agriculture.
Reemelin's Vine Dresser's Manual.
Rural Homes, by G. Wheeler.
Rural Poetry of the English Language.
Robbins' Produce Reckoner.
Stewart's Stable Book.
Stockhardt's Chemical Field Lectures.
Stockhardt's Principles of Chemistry.
Smith's Landscape Gardening.
Stephens' Farmers' Guide, with notes by Professor Norton, (450 illustrations) 2 vols.
Saxton's Rural Hand-books, 4 vols.
Schenck's Gardeners' Text-book.
Studies in the Field and Forest, by W. Flagg.
Sorgho and Imphee, the New Sugar Canes.
Thomas's Farm Implements.
Thompson on the Food of Animals.
Thomas's Fruit Culturist.
The Shepherd's Own Book.
Thaer's Principles of Practical Agriculture.
The American Farmer's Encyclopedia.
The Ladies' Guide, or the Skilful Housewife.
The Farm and Fireside, (J. L. Blake.)
The American Farmer's New and Universal Hand-book (300 engravings.)
The American Sportsman, containing the Habits of the Game Birds and Wild Fowl of America (300 illustrations.)
Ures' Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mines, 2 vols.
Waring's Elements of Agriculture,
Wheeler's Homes for the People.
Wells' Year Book of Agriculture.
Wood's Illustrated Natural History.
Wells' Familiar Science (illustrated.)
Youman's Hand-book of Household Science (illustrated.)
Youatt on the Hog.
Youatt on the Horse.
Youatt & Martin on Cattle. (D)
Youatt on the Dog (30 illustrations.)

A catalogue is appended of the additions to the Horticultural Library proper, whether accruing from donation or purchase :—

Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society, 1865; from I. D. G. Nelson, President; pamph.
Transactions of the Illinois Horticultural Society, 1865; from W. C. Flagg, Cor. Sec.; pamph.
Transactions of the Worcester Co. Agricultural Society, 1865; C. M. Miles, Sec.; pamph.
Fuller's Grape Culturist; 12mo. duplicate; soc.
Commerce and Navigation of U. S. for 1862, 1863, 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. each; from Hon. J. D. Baldwin.
Finance Report for 1864; 1 vol. 8vo.; Hon. J. D. Baldwin.
Report of Commissioners of Int. Rev.: 1 vol. 8vo.: Hon. J. D. Baldwin.
Report of Smithsonian Institute for 1863 and 1864; 1 vol. 8vo. each; Hon. J. D, Baldwin.
Report of Com. of Agriculture; 1 vol. 8vo. (quintupled); Hon. J. D. Baldwin.
Rivers' Miniature Fruit Garden; 1 vol. 8vo.; soc.
Hovey's Magazine—Vol. 31, 1865; 1 vol. 8vo.; soc.
Horticulturist— " 20, " " " soc.
Gardener's Monthly—" 7, " " " soc.
Country Gentleman—Vols. 25 and 26, 1865; 1 vol. quarto; soc.
American Agriculturist—Vol. 24, 1865; 1 vol. quarto; soc.
Woodward's Country Homes; 1 vol. 12mo.; soc.
" Graperies, " " "
Country Life, by R. M. Copeland; 1 vol 8vo.; soc.
Indian Corn, by Edw. Enfield, " " "
Book of Roses, by Francis Parkman; 1 vol. 8vo.
Cultivation of the Grape, by W. C. Strong; 1 vol. 8vo.; society.
Garden Flowers, by Ed. S. Rand, Jr.; 1 vol. 8vo.; society.
High Farming without Manure, by M. Ville; pamph.; soc.
Rural Register, 1864–5–6; 1 vol. 12mo.; soc.
Working Farmer, 1865, vol. 17; soc.
New Book of Flowers, by Joseph Breck, 1866; 1 vol. 8vo.; soc.
The Farm, revised edition, 1866, by D. H. Jaques; 1 vol. 12mo.; society.
Domestic Animals, 1866, by D. H. Jaques; 1 vol. 12mo.; society.
The Garden, 1866, by D. H. Jaques, 1 vol. 12mo.; society.
The Native Grape, its Cultivation, Wine, &c., by George Husmann, 1866; 1 vol. 12mo; society.
Florist and Pomologist, London; 1 vol. 8vo.; society.
Journal of Horticulture, London, vol. 8; 1 vol. 8vo.; society.
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Second Annual Report of Committee of New York Central Park; pamphlet, 8vo.; Hon. Andrew H. Green.
Fourth do.
Ninth do.
New England Farmer (old), vols. 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15; quarto, bd. from F. W. Paine.
Ohio Agricultural Report, 8vo. 2d series, 1864; from Jas. A. Smith.
Rural Annual, 1864–5–6; 1 vol. 12mo.; society.
Transactions of the Alton (Ill.) Horticultural Society, from 1853 to 1864; pamphlet, 12mo.; from W. C. Flagg, Secretary.

As will be observed, the Society is under especial obligations to Hon. John D. Baldwin for many valuable works, which find their appropriate place upon our shelves.

From our Treasurer, F. W. Paine, Esq., we have received eight (8) odd volumes of the (old) New England Farmer. It is to be regretted that we have not a complete series of this publication, to which many modern writers are indebted for their whole stock of ideas, and which has never been surpassed, if even equalled, in its peculiar field.

The Premiums that have been offered at the Summer Exhibitions of the Society have been paid, when claimed, out of a fund contributed by a number of public-spirited members. It was not anticipated that the entire sum, amounting to nearly one hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00) would exceed the demands of a couple of seasons. But, by judicious management, and still more, by the generosity of contributors to the exhibitions, who either declined to take their premiums, or applied them to defray the admission fee of their friends, it has been possible to protract the system of pecuniary encouragement throughout four (4) successive years. *The fund is now exhausted.* It therefore devolves upon the Society to determine whether an attempt shall be made to continue the Summer Exhibitions without the stimulus of monetary inducements, the fate of which attempts can safely be predicted: or whether these exhibitions themselves shall be abandoned, thereby incurring a serious risk of perilling all the advantage heretofore derived from an ability to command that constant attention of the public which is indispensable to candidates for the popular favor. Of course, resort can be had to the treasury of the Society, if it is deemed expedient to subject it to new burdens, as, perhaps, in this case, it may be. Some decision, however, is required, that proper action may be taken at the right season.

Among the matters of minor importance that demand your attention, with a view to their remedy before another general exhibition, the most urgent by far is the provision of suitable bottles or vials for the arrangement and display of cut flowers—of a much larger supply of them—and, also, of an ample number of stands on which they may be disposed. The late lamented chairman of the Committee of Arrangements was painfully alive to this deficiency. Our present vials are almost worthless, besides being utterly insufficient for any but the most ordinary occasions.

The supply of plates for the array of fruit is equally inadequate. Every year we are compelled to hire a large lot of crockery, paying a high rate for its use, and incurring all the risk of fracture and loss. Most of the plates in our possession are too small, holding conveniently about four Seckel pears. For this reason they are seldom or never used. The Society may elect to hire, rather than to own, the necessary table furniture. If not, and a new assortment shall be procured, which cannot be greatly in advance of the necessity for it, it should be an absolute condition that the form should be quadrilateral or oblong. Much tabular space will thus be saved, which is now wasted by the present invariable circular shape.

The Committee of Arrangements, and all the officers of the Society who have had anything to do with the conduct of the Annual Autumnal Exhibitions, are clear in the conviction that some method must be devised and enforced of distinguishing members from those who are so unfortunate as not to enjoy that privilege. The number upon our roll is altogether too large for any person beholding them but once in the year, to be able to discriminate between the true and the false—the genuine and the impostor. To send a ticket of admis-

sion to each member would cost more in postage than the probable amount of saving. Members might be required to produce their certificates at the door; but, in that case, there would be sure dissatisfaction among those who had wholly lost them or who had forgotten to bring them. Besides which, it is probable that a majority of the recent certificates would have to be re-issued in a reduced form, as their present size is too great for convenient carriage. That something should be done cannot be doubted. What? is the problem that puzzles the Committee of Arrangements.

A material saving to the Society might be realized would members but take the slight trouble, at the close of each Exhibition, to preserve the cards imprinted with their names. This style of card was originally adopted to avoid as much as possible the expense of extra clerical aid. If that object fails of attainment, it may well be that the method whereby its accomplishment was sought should cease to meet with favor.

The session of the American Pomological Congress, which was summoned to meet in St. Louis during the current autumn, has been postponed to the fall of 1867. By the terms of the call, this Society, in common with others, is invited to send delegates to the congress. Each local organization is also requested to furnish a list of those varieties of fruit which have been approved as most worthy of cultivation in that particular vicinage. Should you desire to be represented, your instructions to that effect will doubtless meet with the ready acquiescence of your Trustees.

The "Transactions of the Society" from 1848 to 1851 inclusive, and also from 1865, have been published under your vote, passed at the annual exhibition in 1865. As to the policy and utility of this and the previous issue, nothing remains to be added to the able and lucid explanation in the recent annual address of the President. It is greatly to be desired, however, that some more effective and thorough method of distribution be devised.

Our obligations to the Commissioner of Agriculture during the past year have been onerous as usual. A few bags of winter wheat for seed arrived in December, and two packages of vegetable seeds on the 17th of January Not even a copy of his Annual Report has been vouchsafed by him. In fact, since his grand discovery of the principle of gravitation, the labors of the Commissioner appear to have been aimless and of little general utility. It is true that there are some who deny the identity of the Commissioner with the illustrious philosopher who commands the admiration of mankind. But there have been skeptics in all ages, and the breed is not yet extinct. Nature could not produce two Isaac Newtons!

> "Nature despairing e'er to make the like,"
> Brake suddenly the mould in which 'twas fashioned."

Were there any lingering doubt of this identity in your minds, it would be simply necessary to remind you, as pomologists, that Isaac Newton is Commissioner of Agriculture, and that it was by meditation upon the fall of an apple that he evolved his theory of gravitation.

A valuable and quite extensive assortment of vegetable seeds was seasonably received from Hon. John D. Baldwin, and widely distributed among the members of the society. Should new or choice varieties be discovered among these, it is hoped that information of the fact will be communicated to the Secretary. It is believed that the Newington Wonder Bean may fairly claim a high rank in its own class, although the experience of another year should be awaited before a positive decision.

By a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, subsequent to the last annual meeting, your Secretary was informed that ten (10) copies of "Harris on Insects" would be subject to the disposition of the society, to be awarded as premiums. Such awards have been made and the volumes are received and will be distributed in accordance with your order.

Several years have now elapsed since, by authority of the trustees, public notice was given that a gentleman of the city of Worcester had empowered the Worcester Horticultural Society to offer a premium of $30 for the best essay upon shade and fruit trees—the most valuable kinds and the most suitable for culture. A widely extended circulation was given to this offer. Quite a number of essays were received in response, which were delivered to a committee, suggested by the liberal donor, consisting of Samuel F. Haven, Esq., Hons. J. Milton Earle, and D. Waldo Lincoln. From that time to this the committee have given but an "uncertain sound." It is understood that no award was made, no one of the essays precisely meeting the requisitions of the donor in his original proposition. But it would seem that the competitors are at least entitled to know what was the decision, if any. Certainly the society owes something to its own good name, having held out inducements, far and near, through its officers, which those ignorant of the facts, may wrongly imagine that it now desires to disclaim or repudiate.

At the last session of the general court, a proposition was introduced to purchase a number of copies of a work by Mr. E. A. Samuels, upon the "Birds of Massachusetts," for distribution, through the agency of the agricultural and horticultural societies of the commonwealth. Of the value of that particular work your Secretary entertains no individual or precise estimate. But he cannot too strongly express his conviction of the imperative necessity for the diffusion, throughout the community, of a more correct and exact knowledge of the character and habits of our birds. Anything—it matters little what—that will thoroughly cure the existing sickly sentimentality about the American robin. Your Secretary, in vindication of his position heretofore assumed, has spent much time, and lost some Christian grace that he could illy spare, in watching this feathered nuisance. In the absence of strawberries with which to tickle its dainty palate, it gorged itself upon cherries. When that fruit, so rare and unwonted, was gone, the black-cap raspberry was not disdained. But to measure the full capacity of an appetite almost insatiate, the despairing cultivator must observe its ravages among pears. Nothing less than the Bartlett, Belle Lucrative, and Seckel will serve its fastidious taste. The fabled rush of the Harpies to their gluttonous feasts was as nothing compared to the flocking of these birds

of ill-omen to their pomological banquet. Remaining with us so long as anything was left upon our trees, they have now migrated, well-fattened and plump, to stuff the pot-pies of a wiser people.

"Donec lassata, necdum satiata, recessit."

It is urged that, at times—before fruit is ripe enough for their excellencies—this robin of ours eats a few earthworms. Possibly he may, if the ground is previously dug up for him; for he is too proud to work, and to scratch he is ashamed. But the poor worm is harmless, and, therefore, to ensure his destruction, this worse than useless pest is protected by law! Let us pray, if we have no other resource, that he may die of a surfeit!

If the past year has been one of continued prosperity to the Society in its corporate capacity, it has afforded but chequered success to the members in their character of pomologists. The sudden and extreme changes of temperature which distinguish our climate were never more marked than during the last winter. The secretary finds, upon reference to his diary, the following entry, under date of January 9th:

"This A. M., at 9 o'clock, closed a period of intense cold, during which, for 120 hours, i. e., from Friday, the 5th inst., until now, the mercury in the thermometer has nowhere, and at no time, not even in the sun at meridian, indicated so high a temperature as 10 deg. above 0."

And again, under date of January 15th:

"The extremes of temperature are most remarkable and trying. On the morning of Monday, the 8th inst., the mercury indicated 18 deg. below 0. On Saturday, the 13th, at 12 o'clock, meridian, it marked 60 deg. above 0, a change of nearly 80 deg. And on Monday, the 13th, it had again fallen to 2 deg. below 0."

And all this time, as throughout almost the entire winter, the ground was bare of snow, and left exposed to the influences of alternate frost and thaw. Heavy rains from the south prevailed throughout the whole of February, while March was unusually blustering and cold, even for that most disagreeable month. It is no wonder, then, that the buds of the peach were blasted, and even the hardy strawberry succumbed. Of this latter delicious fruit, which adds so much of beauty, fragrance, and relish to our summer exhibitions, the yield has been most meagre. Few of our members had any for their own use, still less for our tables or the market. Attention has been called, by the popular press, to the fact that some beds were prolific which had been carefully covered. But this argument would prove too much, since, if protection alone is essential to the vitality of the strawberry plant, why should it not retain its virtue in all cases? And yet it is matter of notoriety that it failed in the great majority. Is it not more likely that the causes of fatality are to be sought in the excessive drought of the summer and autumn of 1865, which first parched a plant so excessively fond of moisture; and in the singular absence of snow, by which it was left destitute of its closest, moistest, and most effectual winter covering. A confirmation of this theory—that it is the *character* of the covering, rather than the covering at all, which is important—may perhaps be deduced from the fact, within the personal knowledge of your Secretary, that of two (2) plantations of raspberries, one covered by pine boughs, and another, but a few yards distant,

and in a bleaker position, but protected by earth, the canes of the former were killed to the ground, while those of the latter were never raised in better condition or proved themselves more abundantly fruitful.

And of the last-named fruit—the RASPBERRY—indigenous to our soil in some of its species—alien to other countries in varieties—the latest product of semination, or, as in Canada, of hybridization, where the experiment, though promising everything, is yet too recent to insure success—the inquiry may well be put, why is its culture so universally neglected? For five (5) successive weeks your Secretary exhibited, this year as last, specimens of his own growth and of the same species. The Rev. Dr. Hill, of this city, states that he picked an abundance of berries from his canes for *seven* continuous weeks. Can a prolonged yield like this be predicated of the strawberry, with its almost unlimited modern development, whose name is legion, and whereof, in most instances, no man can detect the excellence? You may possibly, by judicious and extreme care, produce one or the other of innumerable varieties of strawberries for *four* weeks in succession. But any person, who has studied the nature and habits of the raspberry, knows well, from individual experience, that it is unrivalled for extent and duration of fecundity; that, in public estimation, it is but slightly, if at all, inferior to the strawberry; that it is the hardier of the two, only requiring to be covered lightly with earth in the late autumn; and that the gathering of the fruit, instead of demanding a painful "crooking of the pregnant hinges of the knee," can be accomplished uprightly and with ease. As yet attacked by no insects strange to our poor methods of prevention, why should it not receive more notice from the pomologists of a society, in which every new strawberry is welcomed at the countless perils of drought, frost, and last—inevitable and most destructive—the *Robin*, only to culminate in the ultimate delight of a precarious crop, picked wearily and by the sweat of the brow, beneath the final sweltering suns of June.

The cherry, strange to relate, as if desirous to vindicate itself from the official condemnation of our Society, in declining to recommend its culture, blossomed and fruited with pristine luxuriance. The predictions of our wisest pomologists were signally yet pleasantly falsified. Even aged trees appeared to revive from the almost mortal injury occasioned by the terrific cold hurricane of 1861, and strove to atone for repeated deficiencies. The canker-worm forbore its ravages to a great extent, confining itself in the main to the barren, though stately, maple. It is truly gratifying to be able once more to cherish a hope of the permanent recovery of this palatable, convenient, and useful fruit.

The usual comparative statement of the entries, or number of articles of each variety exhibited during the past official year, exclusive of the display at the annual autumnal exhibition, is herewith presented:—

Anno Domini.	Strawberries.	Raspberries, Cherries, Currants, Grapes, Gooseberries, &c., &c.	Apples.	Pears.	Flowers, Plants, &c.	Total.
1862	29	98	160	512	632	1443
1863	44	83	366	374	616	1488
1864	36	79	140	184	1008	1507
1865	48	104	41	161	1643	2002
1866	23	151	38	292	811	1313

It will be observed that, while the aggregate is largely diminished, an excess over some previous years is shown in the columns assigned to CHERRIES, GRAPES, &c., and to PEARS. This increase is due to the zeal of a very few of our members, who have never allowed themselves to be diverted from the work to which they were pledged at the commencement of our weekly exhibitions. How long they will continue to uphold the interests of the Society, unaided, cannot be foretold. It must certainly be discouraging to them to pass from our tables, with their meagre display, and behold the windows of every petty huckster upon the street crowded to repletion with noble specimens from the largest and most skilful cultivators in our ranks. Your Secretary claims, for himself, that he has spared neither time nor labor, whenever he imagined that the devotion of either could contribute to the welfare of the Society. Yet, even he confesses to a feeling of lassitude, if not of absolute repulsion at times, when reflecting upon the indifference of those whom an onerous superfluity of means and leisure should make most prominent in our behalf. The sympathy which wishes well at a distance, like the cordiality that keeps you at arm's length, may be well enough in its way; but it is not the active and zealous co-operation required in a Society like ours.

The display of ROSES at the summer exhibition was very fine. The thanks of the Society are due to those ladies whose interest has been so generously manifested, for three successive years, by the contributions of such large and splendid collections of this favorite flower. Laboring from the pure love of Floriculture, it is due to them, at the very least, to be assured that their unselfish efforts are appreciated.

The Trustees, upon your reference of the whole matter to them, at their last meeting appointed a Committee on the subject of "depredations in gardens and orchards." That Committee offered a reward for the detection and conviction of any person found stealing flowers, fruits, or vegetables. Two cases have occurred since the publication of that offer, in each of which punishment was properly inflicted by the court. No money, however, has been required from the treasury, the amount that might have been claimed being applied to new memberships. It is believed that the lesson thus administered upon the rights of property in fruit has not been lost. And it is submitted that the Secretary might well be authorized to renew the offer of that or a similar reward, should circumstances hereafter seem to render it expedient.

In compliance with a promise made to the worthy Chairman of the Committee on Pears, your Secretary desires to invite your attention to the subject of race, without reference to hybridization. The Chairman has experienced an access of tender sensibility. His gentle soul has moved within him since the discovery that "any white male person may become a Member of the Society upon the payment of three dollars." He has no wish to be a "come-outer" from our midst; his choice is rather to "cry aloud and spare not" where he is. He has no insuperable aversion to the whites as a race, in their place. "Not that he loves Cæsar less but Rome more." He misses his cherished and favorite associations. While his bodily presence is with his pears, his heart wanders to his absent peers.

"For he can be happy with neither,
When the other dear charmer's away.

"With his fine eyes fixed on Africa," mindful of his official duty, he aims to develop the neglected pomology of "Borraboola Gha." With this obnoxious second article amended, he promises that the "Black Pear of Worcester" shall become the pet of the pomologist everywhere, as it now is of the Chairman. Having thus fulfilled his pledge, is it exacting too much in return, to ask of the Chairman, when he resumes his official duties, a more elaborate and creditable report? Or, at least, that he shall not shirk a task, imposed upon him because of his presumed and conceded fitness in those very respects, wherein from indifference or neglect he did most injustice to the Society and to his own reputation.

No sound reason can be urged against an amendment of the second article of the by-laws, as desired. Originally in consonance with the tone of legislation and public sentiment throughout the commonwealth, it accords at this day with neither.

Contrary to general expectation, less injury was experienced from the canker worm than for the year previous. Whether this was due to the peculiar character of the winter, in the absence of snow, subjecting the earth to alternate frost and thaw, and in its rapid and extreme changes of temperature similarly affecting the eggs, cannot, of course, be determined. Yet it is certain that, during the constant rains of the later spring, when they should have been committing their worst ravages upon the foliage of the apple and cherry, they remained comparatively torpid. That moisture is disagreeable to them is not an extravagant deduction, from the fact that many insects, proof against everything else, succumb quickly to oils. All the patented protectors so far tried have been found useless. Of those not patented, the ugliest and most worthless—a band of tarred paper, secured by wire—is generally discarded. Absorbing the tar as fast as it could be applied, it was impossible that it should be beneficial; suffered to remain long enough, the wires were sure to girdle the trees, and thus, if in no other way, prevent our streets from being permanently disfigured. Tar, to be useful, must be applied upon some substance that is non-absorbent.

The last season was disagreeably distinguished by the advent of a new insect enemy. The currant, always prolific, in spite of neglect, abuse, or downright ill-treatment, is threatened with absolute annihilation. The leaves are devoured

and the berries blasted: and the foe—a dirty, ugly-looking worm, which it makes one crawl all over simply to touch, much more to squash—seems impervious to all appliances for his destruction, with the single exception of whale-oil soap. They have been thoroughly coated with white hellebore, so strongly recommended in New York, but without the slightest effect except a momentary paralysis. Yet their habits are such that it would appear as though, by diligence, their fell career might be terminated. Usually concentrated upon the lower side of a single leaf, at the base of a bush, they can be found together and summarily destroyed. And they *must be* not only checked but exterminated. Cherries might possibly be yielded to the canker worm, but the currant *cannot* be given up without a struggle; for an immoderate supply of this invaluable fruit, eaten at all hours of the day in its appropriate season, is the most grateful, cheapest, and most effectual prophylactic against the summer diseases of children, if not of adults.

From the western states of the republic come advices of the slow but sure advance of another fearful pest—*Doryphora decemlineata*, the ten (10) lined spearman; a new potatato-bug. This insect is said to be advancing eastward at the rate of fifty (50) miles a year. It is to be hoped that, before reaching our borders, the scientific skill and practical sagacity of our friends at the west may devise some easier and more speedy method for its destruction than the only one known thus far, that of picking it off by hand.

In calling your attention, at the last annual meeting of the Society, to the remarkable accession of members during the year that had then just elapsed, apprehension was felt and expressed that a similar rate of progression could not be permanently maintained. The result has justified this fear. Yet there is cause for congratulation in the fact that the number added to our ranks in 1866 largely exceeds the gain in any previous period of corresponding duration, saving only the exceptional year, 1865. Then many were desirous of procuring our "Transactions," for the first time, after a long interval, printed and published. Quite an earnest spirit was also generally enlisted in obtaining members. The season, too, had, in many important particulars, been very propitious for the growth of flowers and fruit. "Meek-eyed Peace" blessed the land. This year, with few or none of these especial auxiliaries, we have been able to enrol nearly a score more recruits than in 1864, with the sole exception already noted, our most prosperous season hitherto. A tabular statement is annexed:

In 1861	1	In 1864	49
" 1862	19	" 1865	106
" 1863	42	" 1866	61

A careful scrutiny of these figures discloses some singular facts. Of the entire number—two hundred and seventy-eight (278) in all—who have joined the Society within the last six years, only thirty-six are non-residents of the City of Worcester. One hundred and nine (109) of the new members are females, the majority of whom have been attracted within the last two years by the prominence which the Society has wisely given to the display of flowers and plants. It would appear, then, that the control of the Society is fast passing

into the hands of the members from the City of Worcester, and that our women are disposed to seek their *rights* in the domain of Flora, ever ample and free. But if the direction and management of the organization is to be wholly abandoned to us, by any *laches* of members from the county, so much the more becomes it incumbent that we should faithfully discharge our trust as horticulturists. And this not alone by the introduction of new fruits, or the excessive development of old ones: but also by the diffusion of that culture and taste whereby the rough places are made smooth, and the "wilderness" is caused to "blossom as the rose." Let our example go out to our friends who will not come to us. Let our streets and broad avenues be everywhere overarched by the graceful elm, or shaded by the stately maple and sturdy ash; trained, however, for their proper purpose, and not suffered to run riot, with branches so low and trailing as to obstruct the convenience of passage. Let our gardens and lawns be left open to the sunlight, without the deformity of those huge Norway spruces and frightful Balsam firs, with which a vicious or untutored instinct has heretofore disfigured the landscape. With the growth of the town, we should adapt ourselves to new conditions. With the diminished size of lots, trees and shrubs should be in proportion. The apple and cherry, if cultivated at all, should be dwarfed. In the fitness of things—the precise adaptation of the means to the end sought, lies the surest index to correct taste. In many respects, we have no reason to be ashamed of our fair city. Yet shade trees should be trimmed, not hacked. The Commissioners on Public Grounds should do something, and have the necessary facilities for doing it. The Common,—so conspicuous to the eye of the traveller from Boston to New York,—shall it forever remain a hideous blotch, as at present? If it cannot be adorned and beautified, enclose the view of it from the railway with a screen of living verdure. Better anything than the "abomination of desolation" so obtrusively visible. As a place of general resort, whither the people of the commonwealth are annually summoned in conventions, we have no right to neglect the external appearance of our public and private grounds. And to whatever is noted of deficiency in this respect, to so much of shortcoming as is evident, this Society would be false to itself and faithless to the obligations of its existence, were it not, so far as lies within its power, to uplift its indignant testimony and suggest an adequate remedy.

Since your last official meeting in this hall, our ranks have been sadly thinned. Draper, of Worcester; Potter, of Grafton; and now last, not least, Champney, whom both places might well claim. In an association, united by congenial tastes, which is constrained to rely upon the sympathy of its members for that devotion of labor and time, without the cheerful rendition of which all its efforts must prove futile, the loss of such men would at any time compel notice. But how much more forcibly does it arrest attention at a period when the active energies of the community, absorbed in the lust of gain, spare no moments for pursuits, of which, in answer to the "*Cui Bono?*" of the materialist, our only commendation must be, "*Si quæris monumentum, circumspice!*" Would you ask the benefit of my toil? Look around upon this beautiful city, with its

stately buildings, its tasteful gardens, its well-kept lawns, and its studiously developed opulence of flower and fruit! Behold the county, with its impulse from the parent society, branching out into new organizations, each reacting upon and stimulating the old! Were the lives of our lamented associates wasted, who made two blades of grass spring up where but one grew before? Is not their reward, for the time devoted to the interests of this Society, in the appreciation and love of the community, richer than Mammon could furnish?

Of Mr. Potter, whose concern was manifested in our earlier history, a more familiar pen should write. But of Samuel P. Champney, who united himself with its fortunes from its original inception to the day when the hand of disease was laid too heavily upon him; whose contributions were in every variety and in surpassing excellence upon all our tables; and whose regularity of attendance at all meetings for business might well be accepted as a rebuke by many far more conveniently located; shall aught be said but that he was conscientious in the discharge of all his duty, and diligent in all the relations which he bore to the Society? Upon the closing day of our autumnal exhibition, his spirit ascended to Him who said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth," and who "saw that it was good."

Does Edwin Draper require a eulogy in this presence? Which one of you all is ignorant with what untiring assiduity he applied himself to promote the growth of this association, and to develop the results of that growth? How he toiled, "in season and out of season," to give form and substance to our exhibitions? How, never sparing himself, he was willing to assume upon his own overburdened shoulders the tasks of others, too indolent or selfish to emulate an exemplar so active and disinterested? Of an energy that proved itself unfailing, of quick perception, but *brusque* in manner almost to rudeness, he was often misconceived. Yet, with all his apparent abruptness, he could be patient: and, though irritable at times, was gentle even to tenderness when he perceived that no offence was intended. As Chairman of your Committee of Arrangements, he was diligence and punctuality itself. All your exhibitions were timely planned and thoroughly ordered. There was a place for everything and everything was in its place. As the omission of the statues in the ancient funeral procession revived the memory of departed heroes, so the absence of the ready presence, the prompt suggestion, and the kindly word of our lamented friend, at the recent autumnal exhibition, brought to mind, all too forcibly, the irreparable loss sustained by the Society. By whomsoever his place may be supplied in the future, he may well esteem himself fortunate if he can rival, in ever so partial a measure, those excellent qualities of head and heart which so commended the late Edwin Draper to our judgment and affection.

EDWARD W. LINCOLN,
Secretary and Librarian.

Horticultural Hall,
Worcester, Mass., Nov. 7th, 1866.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The Farm. By D. H. Jacques. 1866. 1 vol. 12mo.
The Garden. " " " " "
The Barn-yard. " " " " "
Indian Corn. By Edward Enfield. " " "
The Native Grape. Its Cultivation. Wine. By George Husmann. 1866. 1 vol. 12mo.
Florist and Pomologist. Illustrated. Loudon. 1865. 1 vol. 8vo.
Journal of Horticulture. Illustrated. Vol. 8. London. 1 vol. 8vo.
" " " " 9. " " "
Ninth Annual Report Comm. Central Park, New York. Pphlt. 8vo.
Second " " " " " " " "
Fourth " " " " " " " "
Transactions of the Alton (Ill.) Horticultural Society, from 1853 to 1864, incl. Pphlt.
New England Farmer. (Old Series.) Bound. Quarto. Vols. 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15.
Ohio Agricultural Reports. 1864. 2nd Series. 1 vol. 8vo.
Rural Annual. 1864–5–6. 1 vol. 12mo.
Forest Tree Culturist. By A. S. Fuller. 1 vol. 12mo.
Harris on Insects. Illustrated. 1 vol. 8vo. (Duplicate.)
Annual of Architecture and Landscape Gardening. By G. E. & F. W. Woodward. 12mo. Pphlt.
Agricultural Department, Report of 1865. 1 vol. 8vo.
Gardening for Profit. By Peter Henderson. 1 vol. 12mo.
Horticultural Annual. O. Judd &. Co. 1 vol. 12mo.
New England Fruit Trees. By George Jaques. 1 vol. 12mo.
The Gardener's Text Book. By Peter A. Schenck. 1 vol. 12mo.
American Fruit Garden Companion. By E. Sayers. 1 vol. 12mo.
" Flower " " " " " "
N. E. Fruit Book. By Robert Manning. 2nd edition, by John W. Ives. 1 vol. 12mo.
Manual of the Mulberry Tree and Silk Culture. By J. H. Cobb. 1 vol. 12mo.
Transactions of the Ohio Pomological Society. 8th Session, 1857. Pphlt.

MEMBERS ADMITTED SINCE NOVEMBER 1, A. D, 1865.

Names.	*Residence.*
George A. Adams,	Worcester.
Mrs. Charles L. Allen,	"
Mrs. Sarah F. Bennet,	"
Mrs. Annie E. Boswell,	"
A. Herbert Barrows,	"
Charles Belcher,	"
Silas J. Brimhall,	"
Jacob Baker,	Dudley.
Mrs. Jacob Baker,	"
James Bennett,	Leominster.
Charles O. Bachelor,	Northbridge.
Mrs. Charles O. Bachelor,	"
Miss Josie E. Brown,	Wilkinsonville.
Mrs. Benjamin J. Dodge,	Worcester.
Mrs. Isaac Davis,	"
Miss Alice Davis,	"
Dennis Driscoll,	"
Miss Emma Eastman,	"
Stephen C. Earle,	"
Miss Alla W. Foster,	"
Miss Lydia C. Fiske,	"
Mrs. James A. Fuller,	"
Rufus Fiske,	"
George E. Francis,	"
Miss Maria Fox,	"
Miss Mary E. Gorham,	"
George Geer,	"
Mrs. Geer,	"
Miss Mary Ann Hoyle,	Millbury.
Mrs. Henrietta A. Holman,	Worcester.
William D. Holbrook,	"
Mrs. William D. Holbrook,	Worcester.
Mrs. William Y. Holman,	"
Charles A Keyes,	"
John D. Lovell,	"
Frank Langdon Messinger,	"
Mrs. Charles P. Nichols,	"
J. M. Onthank,	"
Mrs. Solomon Parsons,	"
James Robinson,	"
Mrs. James Robinson,	"
Miss S. Elizabeth Rice,	"
L. R. S. Reed,	"
Miss Alice Scott,	"
Mrs. John B. Shaw,	"
Sidney Smith,	"
James A. Smith,	"
Alden H. Sears,	"
Horace Thayer,	"
Mrs. Horace Thayer,	"
E. C. Tainter,	"
Harvey G. Upham,	"
Timothy W. Wellington,	"
Mrs. Timothy W. Wellington,	"
Fred. W. Wellington,	"
Miss Mary F. Whiting,	"
Melvin O. Whittier,	"
Mrs. William Workman,	"
Mrs. Francis Winn,	"
Miss Nancy Wheeler,	"
John D. Warren,	"

SELECT FRUITS RECOMMENDED BY THE SOCIETY.

APPLES.

Early.—Red Astrachan, Sweet Bough, Duchess of Oldenburg, Williams' Early Red, Worcester Spy*, Summer Pippin.*

Autumn.—Mother, Gravenstein, Porter, Shepard's Sweeting,* Leland's Spice*, Fameuse*, Hubbardston Nonsuch, Holden Pippin.

Winter and Spring.—Rhode Island Greening, Yellow Belleflower†, Jewett's Red†, Baldwin, Washington Royal†, Ladies' Sweeting*, Tallman Sweeting, Northern Spy, Roxbury Russett.

PEARS.

Amateur Culture.—Doyenne d'Ete, Rostiezer, Dearborn's Seedling, St. Ghislain, Washington, Belle Lucrative, Flemish Beauty, Henry IV., St. Michael Archange, Beurre Superfin, Glout Morceau.

General or Market Culture.—Beurre Giffard, Bartlett, Paradise d'Automne, Seckel, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Marie Louise, Fulton, Sheldon, Swan's Orange, Doyenne Boussock, Beurre Bosc, Urbaniste, Beurre D'Anjou, Duchesse d'Angouleme (on Q.,) Winter Nelis, Lawrence (on P.,) Doyenne du Comice, Vicar of Winkfield.

CHERRIES.

Amateur.—May Duke, Knight's Early Black, Black Tartarian, American Amber, Downer's Late, Black Eagle.

GRAPES.

Amateur.—Delaware, Diana. General.—Hartford, Prolific, Concord.

STRAWBERRIES.

Amateur.—Hovey's Seedling, Jenney's Seedling, Jenny Lind, Triomphe de Gand. General.—Wilson's Albany Seedling; Russell's Prolific—*on trial.*

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* Varieties recommended as "promising well."
† Varieties recommended for "Amateur cultivation."

OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

— OF —

The Worcester County Horticultural Society,

FOR 1867.

PRESIDENT:

FRANCIS H. DEWEY, of Worcester.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

WILLIAM N. GREEN, of Worcester; JONATHAN D. WHEELER, of Grafton; J. HENRY HILL, of Worcester.

SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN:

EDWARD W. LINCOLN, of Worcester.

TREASURER:

FREDERICK W. PAINE, of Worcester.

TRUSTEES:

Stephen Salisbury,	Worcester.	John Milton Earle,	Worcester.
William T. Merrifield,	"	George Jaques,	"
D. Waldo Lincoln,	"	Samuel H. Colton,	"
William Workman,	"	Jonathan Grout,	"
Edward Earle,	"	Emory Banister,	"
John C. Ripley,	"	Horatio Phelps,	"
Ivers Phillips,	"	Samuel V. Stone,	"
Obadiah B. Hadwen,	"	Paul Whitin,	Whitinsville.
J. Frank Allen,	"	Josiah L. Woodward,	Millbury.
Stephen Salisbury, Jr.,	"	Newell Wood,	"
Calvin Taft,	"	Harvey Dodge,	Wilkinsonville.
Benjamin Butman,	"	George F. Daniels,	Oxford.

AUDITORS:

SAMUEL H. COLTON, EMORY BANISTER, Worcester.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

On Horticultural Hall.—D. Waldo Lincoln, Emory Banister, O. B. Hadwen.

On Library and Publication.—Edward W. Lincoln, Francis H. Dewey, George Jaques.

On Synonymes.—J. Milton Earle, S. H. Colton, D. W. Lincoln, Geo. Jaques.

Of Arrangements.—President, Secretary, John C. Newton, O. B. Hadwen, Dr. Samuel Flagg, Emory Banister, Charles Richardson.

On Apples.—Rufus Woodward, *Chairman*; John C. Ripley, J. Frank Allen, Samuel H. Colton, Thomas R. Noreross, Samuel A. Knox, of Worcester; Josiah L. Woodward, of Millbury.

On Pears.—Hartley Williams, *Chairman;* John Milton Earle, Stephen S. Foster, John C. Newton, Emory Banister, David S. Messinger, of Worcester; J. H. Moore, of Charlton.

On Grapes, Peaches, &c.—Edwin Conant, *Chairman:* Benjamin Butman, Francis H. Dewey, D. Waldo Lincoln, Horatio Phelps, Charles Richardson, of Worcester; Paul Whitin, of Whitinsville.

On Flowers, Plants, &c.—George E. Francis, *Chairman:* Mrs. Calvin Taft, Mrs. Daniel Tainter, Mrs. Chas. L. Pierce, Mrs. John D. Warren, of Worcester; Mrs. Jonas Brown, of Wilkinsonville; John Milton Earle, Patrick Martin, of Worcester.

On Vegetables.—Stephen Salisbury, Jr., *Chairman:* Charles Belcher, Marshall Flagg, James Green, C. K. Hubbard, George Barber, of Worcester: Newell Wood, of Millbury.

☞ The Annual Autumnal Exhibition will be held on the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th of September, commencing at 6 o'clock, P. M., on the 17th.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Worcester County Horticultural Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1867.

COMPRISING THE ADDRESS OF VICE-PRESIDENT HILL; THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY; AND THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN FOR 1867.

ALSO

A ROLL OF THE ACCESSIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETY.

From EDWARD W. LINCOLN, Secretary.

WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY EDWARD R. FISKE & SON,
1868.

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PREFACE.

At the Annual Meeting of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, holden on Wednesday, the thirteenth day of November, A. D. 1867, on motion of Hon. John Milton Earle, it was unanimously voted: —

"That the Transactions of the Society, comprising the Address of the Vice-President and the Reports of the several Committees at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, with the Report of the Secretary and Librarian, just delivered, be printed for the use of Members, under the supervision of the Standing Committee on Publication."

The only essential variation in the form of this volume of transactions, from its predecessors, consists in the omission of the List of Additions to the Library; which, being already stated in the Report of the Librarian, would gain little more publicity from repetition.

Horticultural Hall,
Worcester, Mass., February, A. D. 1868.

ADDRESS

OF

J. HENRY HILL, Vice-President.

At the Twenty-Eighth Annual Exhibition of the Society. Delivered on Thursday Evening, September 19, 1867.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Worcester County Horticultural Society.

There could scarcely be a more forcible illustration of the old maxim that "a bad penny is soon returned," than the one you have now before you. My leave-taking of you, one year since, I supposed final; and it can be a matter of no greater surprise to any of you than it is to me, to find myself back again in the old place upon the present occasion.

We are, all of us, at one time or another, in the course of our lives the sport of accident. Now this is my present experience; for my successor had no sooner become fairly settled in his seat, than upon the strength of his newly acquired honors, apparently, he resolved upon a course of foreign travel; for the ostensible purpose, perhaps, of qualifying himself for the better performance of his new official duties; but really, I more than half suspect, for his own gratification and amusement. In any other times than these, it would have been regarded as certainly a very extraordinary step for a President, the moment he was elected, to abandon his own territory and jurisdiction, for foreign lands, leaving the duties and responsibilities of his position to be borne by his subordinates in rank; and as my companions in the line of VICE have seen fit to neglect their duties, likewise, I am thrown into a position which, while it is unfortunate enough for me, is far more so, in its consequences, for you. And in consideration of this accident, which the freaks and wanderings

of your President have brought upon his predecessor, and its unpleasant results, I think you will bear me out in the opinion, that he can do nothing less than to pass over the pay and emoluments of the office to those who bear its burdens and discharge its duties; since he can, at the same time, preserve the honors of it intact, to himself.

But these misfortunes rarely come without some redeeming feature to relieve them, and the present one is no exception to the rule. The occasion affords me an opportunity of performing a most agreeable duty, which I am happy to avail myself of; that of announcing to you the flattering and greatly improved condition of the financial affairs of your Society; a duty, all the more agreeable, in that we find in these days, so rarely the opportunity of making such announcements. The tendency is rather towards the increase of debt, than the liquidation of it — rather to see how much we can possibly stagger under, than to see how clear and free we can keep from it.

Something more than a year since, a gentleman who has been connected with the Society, as one of its most active and most useful members, from the first, and who has, from time to time, during its history, given evidence of his interest in its welfare by substantial tokens of his munificence, made, with his well-known tact and modesty, a proposition of great liberality, having for its object an early extinguishment of the Society's debt. The proposition was met in the same liberal spirit by a few gentlemen of the Society who appreciated its generosity, and the terms of it were promptly acceded to. In consequence of these acts, the debt of the Society, which one year ago, was about eight thousand dollars, has been reduced to a sum less than four thousand. In addition to this, the rental of the stores has been doubled, taking effect on the first of April last. The Society has been placed in a position, therefore, by which, with the exercise of the same degree of care and prudence that has marked its past management, it will be enabled, very soon, to extinguish its permanent debt altogether. The effect will be to increase its means of usefulness to a very great degree, and if proportionate beneficial results are not hereafter perceptible, it certainly will be no fault of those gentlemen who have so generously contributed of their means to place the Society in its present desirable position.

Of your present Exhibition, there seems but very little need for me to speak. It is before, you and speaks for itself. In quantity and quality it exceeds anything we have had since eighteen hundred and sixty-four. In the Apple department, particularly, is this true. The number of entries is almost double that of any year since then, and the whole appearance of the display furnishes very gratifying evidence, that we are about returning to a more abundant supply of this staple and almost indispensable fruit, promising pleasure and comfort to the housekeeper, while it affords very little consolation to speculators. The Peach, also, with its delicately pencilled cheek and delicious flavor, seems to be throwing off, in some measure, its late coyness, and to be coming to your tables with something approaching its old profusion. Indeed, so fine a display has not graced your Exhibitions for many years; and I am quite sure that there is no fruit whose return will be welcomed with greater or more heartfelt

delight. Its re-appearance will serve to verify the wisdom of those who have been accustomed to plant a few trees of this fruit every year, in the faith that the failure in the crop was but a temporary one. And this practice of frequent planting and its promised good results furnishes a lesson that horticulturists will do well to heed.

Other fruits have not, perhaps, quite come up, in some respects, to the standard of former years. Indeed, one might almost imagine a sort of conventional courtesy established among the different fruits. They very rarely all come up to the same degree of excellence, or abound in equal profusion, at one and the same time. If the Apple promises a larger display than usual, the Pear seems instinctively to retire, partially, for the time, and to leave the field comparatively free, declining to offer any obstacle to the success of the Apple by way of competition. If the Peach exhibits any signs of renewing its strength, or of resuming its old position among its kindred fruits, others of its class gracefully yield their claims, for the nonce, and allow her to become the centre of attraction.

But, as a whole, the Society and its friends have reasonable cause to look upon the present Exhibition as a success.

The few past years have been trying ones to those engaged in the culture of fruits, whether as amateurs, or for the market. A great many obstacles have arisen for them to encounter, and a great many foes, scarcely known before, have intruded themselves upon the cultivator, and baffled, to a greater or less extent, his efforts. They have come in almost every form, and under almost every guise. If he stop the ravages of one enemy and plume himself upon his victory, it is only oftentimes to find another of a different, and, perhaps, more formidable character in another direction. His life thus becomes one of constant vigilance and unwearied perseverance. If he would have abundant crops he must not count upon a life of indolent ease, or an entire freedom from care. If in the spring he finds his trees free from the canker-worm and the caterpillar, he need not at once jump at the conclusion that his crop is secure. A great many other contingencies may intervene to frustrate his hopes. Perhaps those whom he has heretofore regarded as his best friends, and whom he has petted and cherished with the most tender care, will this year declare themselves his enemies, and plunder him of his choicest fruits.

The music and the warble of the spring birds have furnished the theme for many a rhapsody. The lover and the poet, from time immemorial, have gone "clean mad" over the sentiment which the feathered songsters have given birth to; and one who manifests indifference or insensibility upon that subject is set down as devoid of sentiment, or even the commonest traits of human feeling and human emotion. But this, like every other malady of the kind has, in some sort, its cure; and like every other pleasure, our spring music has its cost, and sometimes pretty heavy at that. Now, if any of you doubt this, turn horticulturist, and you will soon be brought to reason. By the time these charming thieves have robbed you for two or three years of your entire crop of Strawberries, of Raspberries, of Peas, of early Pears and

Peaches even, the product of your patient toil and watchful care, your sentiment will have received a terrible shock; and before you are aware of it, you will have committed it to other hands for safe-keeping. Nay, more; your consideration of these matters will gradually assume a practical turn, and you will not be long in coming to the conclusion, that the aggregate wisdom of your legislators can be more profitably employed than in enacting laws for the protection of the feathered race.

REPORTS.

REPORT ON APPLES.

Dr. Rufus Woodward, *Chairman;* John C. Ripley, J. Frank Allen, Stephen S. Foster, Thomas R. Norcross, and S. A. Knox, of *Worcester;* Josiah L. Woodward, of *Millbury.*

The Committee on Apples having attended to the duty assigned them, respectfully beg leave to report:

First, that the show in this department of the Annual Exhibition is creditable, considering the exceeding unfavorableness of the season, and the almost utter failure of the crop for the two or three seasons past. A wet and cold summer has proved this year as unfavorable, as a hot and dry one formerly did for the growth and perfection of the Apple. And, although the selected specimens on your tables are, for the most part, fair in size, perfection and color, the general character of the crop, is poor in size, imperfect in form, and sadly deficient in flavor. This, for the most part, is not, your Committee think, from any lack of good cultivation and care, for the specimens presented by some of our best and most careful cultivators, average badly, and are creditable only as showing a desire on the part of these gentlemen to help on the Exhibition, by faithfully bringing in what they have, even if it happen to be, from a bad season, greatly below what they desired, and what they usually are able to furnish.

Your Committee notice with regret, that not one single new variety of acknowledged excellence has been presented to their observation this year. This is not as it should be, in a community where fruit culture takes such a high stand. It is not to our credit, that year after year, the same old varieties are presented upon our tables, and that we go out of this eternal round, only to find that the vast hodge podge of nameless, and generally worthless varieties only, has increased, while fruits which have received the unqualified commendation of competent committees, at our best pomological conventions, are as

yet entirely untried among us. It costs no more to raise the Decatur, the Marigold, the Melon, the Kelsey, Dodge's Crimson, the Golden Ball and the Progress, than it does to raise the Big Gal Sweet, or the Stone Wall Sour, or the Mudpuddle Pippin, or a hundred other nameless varieties, or worthless varieties with absurd names. In the good old cider days, long gone by, these blots upon fair cultivation, were consigned unregretted and unwept to their only appropriate place, the hopper; but now, each and all are dignified with sounding appellations, and sent, year after year, to the Exhibition, with no other object than to swell the number of the Exhibition plates, and make a large count in varieties. Actually, there are but few sweet Apples that are worth cultivation at all, and when a farmer or horticulturist has four or five of the best of these, he has all he can cultivate with credit or profit. If any one has really a good Apple, which has not been named, let him send it to the Society, at its prime for trial, and if it receives commendation, then let him name it, or request the Society to do so; and ever after hold it true to that name. This may seem to some to be a needless trouble; but we tell them that the community have learned to buy Apples by name. If you do not believe it, come in and try to sell a load of your nameless sweets or sours, beside the Greenings, and Baldwins, and Spitzenbergs of our market; and you will soon be convinced of it. I venture to say, that the Apple, called by our Society, the Worcester Spy, has by this means become so well known, that it will always command a ready sale and a good price; because, beyond its good looks and fine quality, its keeping properties, its productiveness, hardiness, time of ripening, growth and general fairness, have been reported upon and made public, and whoever buys it, knows exactly what he is buying, and fears imposition no more than if he was buying Baldwins or Porters. If, then, any cultivator wishes to extend the number of his varieties, let him extend it in the right direction, and not by a multiplication of this farrago of trash. Again, your Committee notice, that exhibitors are prone to display, worthless or uncreditable specimens of really good varieties. This is not right or proper, and if advice comes with any authority from your Committee, we advise you henceforth to leave them out. They injure the general aspect and character of your collection; they are a libel on your taste and judgment, and worse than both, they throw discredit upon the Exhibition, and greatly embarrass the Committee. All varieties cannot be equally perfect every year, and if your Baldwins which you think should stand at the head of your list, are small, knobbed, pale and tasteless, you had better leave them out, and make a perfect exhibition with one or more less varieties. Committees are rarely deceived, either by worthless varieties, or poor specimens. Apples grow scraggy and deteriorated, as the human race does, from wet feet, cold habitation, and scanty food. Give them a dry, warm soil, good culture and encouragement, and they will improve, as children will who are removed from wet, and filth, and want, to decent, sunny apartments, warm clothing and proper food. Wet feet, particularly, both in the tree and in the child, must be avoided, or you have no health or growth. This means, underdrain cold and wet soils before you venture to plant them

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

to orchards, stir the soil, remove the moisture, let in the air and the warmth of heaven, or you might as well plant your orchards on the sands of the seashore, and expect them to flourish and bear fruit.

Bear also this in mind, that all varieties do not flourish equally well upon the same soil; and if, under the best care you can give them, your Russetts are not as large and fair as your neighbors, don't fret, perhaps your Baldwins or Tallman Sweetings are better than his. Mr. Pell, of the Pelham Farm, upon the North River, ascertained that his soil was peculiarly adapted to the growth of the Newtown Pippin; but did not suit some other favorite varieties; acting upon this knowledge, he extended the culture of this one variety, until his annual product could be counted by thousands of barrels, and his income by corresponding tens of thousands of dollars. In the spring of 1858, I, myself, saw Pelham Farm Apples selling readily in Liverpool Market for fifteen dollars a barrel.

But you may say how are all these new varieties to be obtained. I answer, by exchange with your friends, by purchase from good reliable nurseries; and hope I may add, by direct action of this Society. This Society has, or should have, for its object, the general advancement of Horticulture. It should include in its scope the general interest of all its members. It does but half its duty, if it rests contented with a few weekly and one yearly Exhibition. It should actively, not passively, advance Horticulture. It should collect and distribute plants, and trees, and seeds, and scions. Do you doubt that invoices of trees, ordered by the Society, would sell at remunerative prices? Look at the piles of worthless, unreliable trash, which our citizens purchase every year from irresponsible agents. Do you doubt that our members would set scions of new varieties, or find room to try new seeds or plants? The eagerness with which they buy everything that is offered, answer the doubt. No, the community, and our members especially, are ready to take hold, whenever the Society shall see fit to give them anything to take hold of. I rejoice in this opportunity to give the Society a sly kick. It has gone to sleep in its own Horticultural Hall; it needs to be aroused and set agoing again. We want lectures, we want public talks; we want trees, and plants, and scions, and seeds, and books, and papers; and more than all, we want life and energy.

The Committee would also call the attention of exhibitors to the necessity of complying with the Regulations more closely, in regard to the number of specimens of each variety presented. Twelve is the number for the larger premiums, and eight for the smaller. The Committee think it a pity that some really fine collections on the tables, should be debarred from competition, by this small neglect. When a premium is offered for twelve specimens, it cannot be given to eight; and when for eight, it cannot be for six, and of this the members should be fully aware before they place their specimens in the Hall.

Many exhibitors are, no doubt, disappointed that the Committee are not able to name valuable specimens presented to them for a name. Many of these are seedlings, and can be named just as well by the cultivator as by the Committee; others are from scions sent by friends from abroad, and though the variety may

have a local name whence it came, it becomes lost or is inappropriate here. Others having a good name at home, have it so corrupted by the time it reaches us, that its indentity is lost; as, for instance, the Cayuga Red Streak, of Western New York, is here called the Lima; in other places the Twenty-ounce Apple, or the Twenty-ounce Pippin. The Committee of the Society are generally familiar with the names of the common varieties, and of the new varieties that have received public notice and commendation; but no Committee can be familiar with local or arbitrary names. It is the duty of the exhibitor to help the Committee, as far as possible, by ascertaining from friends the names of varieties sent from abroad, and by adhering to the true name, if any has been given.

The Committee award the premiums placed at their disposal as follows: —

Apples.—For the best collection of not less than six specimens of each variety, S. S. Foster, of Worcester,..... $10 00
For the second best, Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester,..... 8 00
For the third best, W. W. Keyes, West Boylston,..... 6 00
For the best twenty varieties of twelve specimens each, Isaac Mills, Worcester,..... 8 00
For the second best, Adams Foster, Holden,..... 6 00
For the best twelve varieties of twelve specimens each, E. M. Banning, Worcester,..... 6 00
For the second best, Alden H. Sears, Worcester,..... 4 00
For the best six varieties of twelve specimens each, C. L. Hartshorn, Worcester,..... 4 00
For the second best, Mrs. Geo. A. Chamberlain, Worcester,..... 2 00
For the best eight Gravenstein Apples, Addison Lovell, West Boylston,..... 1 00
For the best eight Porter, D. B. Comins, Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best eight Hubbardston Nonsuch, Jos. Boyden, Worcester,... 1 00
For the best eight Northern Spy, E. F. Champney, Grafton,..... 1 00
For the best eight Baldwin, D. B. Comins, Worcester,..... 1 00
And ten dollars are placed at the disposal of the Committee on Apples, to be awarded at their discretion.

GRATUITIES.

Joel Knapp, Sutton, Collection, Gratuity,..... $1 00
Harvey Dodge, Sutton, Collection, Gratuity,..... 1 00
Henry Marble, Millbury, Collection, Gratuity,..... 1 00
Mrs. Chas. Johnson, Northboro', Porter, Gratuity,..... 1 00
Cyrus White, Millbury, Collection, Gratuity,..... 1 00
James Draper, Worcester, Collection, Gratuity,..... 1 00
J. C. Lovell, West Boylston, Collection, Gratuity,..... 2 00

RUFUS WOODWARD,
Chairman, for the Committee.

REPORT ON FLOWERS.

Dr. George E. Francis, *Chairman;* John Milton Earle, Patrick Martin, Mrs. Calvin Taft, Mrs. Daniel Tainter, Mrs. Charles L. Pierce, Mrs. John D. Warren, of *Worcester;* and Mrs. Jonas Brown, of *Wilkinsonville.*

The Committee on Plants and Flowers have awarded Prizes as follows :—

Plants, Flowers, &c. — For the best twenty variegated leaved Plants, to William T. Merrifield, of Worcester,..... $15 00
For largest and best collection of greenhouse and stove plants, to William T. Merrifield, of Worcester,..... 10 00
For the second best, to Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester,..... 6 00
Designs. — For the best Floral design, (no award).....
For the second best, to Mrs. Daniel Tainter, of Worcester,..... 2 00
Cut Flowers. — For the largest and best collection, to Mrs. Daniel Tainter, of Worcester,..... 6 00
For the second best, to Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester,..... 4 00
For the third best, to William T. Merrifield, of Worcester,..... 2 00
For the best Stand, to Mrs. Alfred D. Foster, of Worcester,..... 2 00
For the second best, to Mrs. William Sherman, of Worcester,..... 1 00
For the best arranged basket or dish, to Miss Frances M. Lincoln, of Worcester,..... 2 00
For the second best, to Mrs. Daniel Tainter, of Worcester,..... 1 00
Bouquets. — For the best pair, to Mrs. Alfred D. Foster, of Worcester 2 00
For the second best, to Mrs. William Y. Holman, of Worcester,.... 1 00
Roses. — For the best display, (no award).....
For the second best, (no award).....
Gladiolus. — For the best display, (no award).....
For the second best, (no award).....
Asters. — For the best display, to Mrs. George H. Estabrook, of Worcester,..... 2 00
Dahlias. — For the best display, to Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester,.. 2 00
Verbenas. — For the best display, (no award).....

They also recommend the following gratuities: —

Mrs. H. D. Tainter, Display,	$2 00
Mrs. Jonas Brown, Wilkinsonville, Dahlias,	1 50
Miss R. N. Kinnicutt, Baskets of Wild Flowers and Berries,	1 00
Miss Alice Davis, Basket,	1 00
Mrs. L. F. Barnes, Bouquet,	1 00
Mrs. Sandford Mowry, Display,	1 00
Mrs. Wm. Sherman, Display,	1 00
Mrs. A. D. Foster, Japan Lilies,	1 00
Jos. Lovell, Asters,	1 00
Mrs. Canfield, Bouquet,	1 00
Mrs. Wm. Y. Holman, Bouquet and Petunias,	1 00
Mrs. E. F. Parker, Preserved Natural Flowers,	1 00
Mrs. Hartley Williams, Bouquet,	1 00
Mrs. Warren Williams, Bouquet	1 00
Mrs. G. H. Estabrook, Zinnias,	0 50
Miss F. A. Richardson, Pansies and Phloxes,	0 50
J. L. Tarbox, Wax Flowers,	0 50

The members of this Committee found confronting them, a task of unusual magnitude and difficulty. The Contributions of Flowers were numerous and excellent, while the display of Ornamental Plants was really superb. A liberal assignment of space had been given to this department, by the energetic Committee of Arrangements, who provided a special platform for plants in the centre of the whole length of the Hall. This arrangement amply satisfied the wants of the Exhibitors of large and choice plants; since abundance of space was afforded; each plant could be seen on all sides; while a special prominence was given by its location to what was felt by all to be one of the most attractive features of the Exhibition.

It will be noticed that the most liberal Premium was offered for "the best twenty variegated leaved plants." Very few Florists in this vicinity have hot houses of sufficient size to produce any where near twenty first rate specimens of this class. But in any of the smaller greenhouses, care and zeal may bring to very high perfection one or two plants of the choicest species; and the Committee would recommend that besides, or instead of, the large premiums for great collections, two or three prizes worth competing for, be offered for "single specimen plants."

The Committee desire that honorable mention be made of the following Contributions: —

From Mrs. R. W. Taylor, Grafton, Sweet Peas; Miss Mary R. Phelps, Dish and Basket of Flowers; Mrs. Paine, Wax Fruit and Flowers; Miss Olive S. Mowry, Shrewsbury, Petunias; Mrs. Wm. S. Hall, Northbridge, Dahlias; Mrs. F. A. Collier, Dahlias; Mrs. C. L. Pierce, Cut Flowers; F. W. Paine, Cut Flowers; Mrs. A. D. Foster, Bouquet and Dishes of Flowers.

G. E. FRANCIS, *Chairman.*

REPORT ON GRAPES, PEACHES, QUINCES, &c.

Edwin Conant, *Chairman;* B. Butman, D. Waldo Lincoln, Francis H. Dewey, Horatio Phelps, Charles Richardson, of *Worcester;* and Paul Whitin, of *Whitinsville.*

The Committee on Peaches, Grapes and other Small Fruits, submit the following report: —

A superb display of Peaches that would have done credit to the Society in former years, when this delicious Fruit constituted the most common, as well as the most valuable of all the products of our gardens, was a marked feature in this year's Exhibition; and we may hope was an earnest of the "good time coming," when it can again be cultivated with profit and success. The old stock of diseased trees has fortunately died out. A different cultivation and a rotation of crops for a series of years have now prepared the ground for the new trees. No cultivator of experience can have failed to observe that, a young Pear or Apple tree cannot be made to thrive in the spot from which another tree of the same kind had been removed, without thoroughly changing the soil. For years the Peach was the most common fruit of our gardens, exhausting all the constituents of the soil which were essential to its growth and development. By the lapse of time and a change of cultivation, these constituents should now be restored, and it is not unreasonable to expect that the Peach can be, now again, for a series of years, cultivated with success in Massachusetts.

The specimens exhibited by Mr. Allen, of Shrewsbury; by Col. Phillips and Mr. Foster, of Worcester, and by other exhibitors were of unusual beauty and excellence.

For the best collection, of six varieties, of not less than ten specimens each, the premium of six dollars was awarded to Asa H. Allen, of Shrewsbury.

For the best two varieties, of twelve specimen each, the first premium of three dollars was awarded to Col. Ivers Phillips, of Worcester.

For the second best, the second premium of two dollars, to Gideon Harris.

For the third best, the third premium of one dollar, to Stephen S. Foster, both of Worcester.

For the best variety, of twelve specimens, the first premium, two dollars, to John Claflin, of Worcester.

For the second best, the second premium, to Samuel Smith, of Worcester.

The Committee recommend the payment of a gratuity of one dollar each to William S. Lincoln, of Worcester; Newell Wood, of Milbury; S. H. Colton and Sylvanus Sears, of Worcester, for their collections of Peaches; to John B. Pratt, of Worcester, for his fine plate of Crawford's Late, and to Francis McCracken, of Millbury, for his handsome Cooledge's Favorite peaches.

The Exhibition of Grapes was not equal to that of many former years. Owing to an unpropitious season, not a single specimen of thoroughly ripened out-door Grapes was exhibited. With a soil and a location which combine to make vegetation in the City of Worcester and its neighborhood, from a week to ten days later in the spring, than it is fifty miles East, West or South of us; and with frosts as much earlier in the fall, we need varieties of Grapes still earlier in their time of ripening than any we yet possess. With the exception of the Hartford Prolific and Delaware varieties, both of which failed this year, it is rare to see, at our Exhibitions, on the third week of September, thoroughly ripened specimens of any good out-door Grapes.

Only two collections of Grapes grown under glass were offered.

For these, the first premium of six dollars, was given to P. L. Moen, of Worcester; and the second, of four dollars, to Wm. T. Merrifield, of Worcester. The premium of two dollars for the best two clusters of Black Hamburgs was awarded to Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester.

For out door grapes, no premiums were awarded, the rules of the Society properly requiring that they should be ripe, but inasmuch as the contributors could not control the seasons, the Committee recommend the payment of a gratuity of one dollar each to Mrs. Charles Johnson, of Northboro, and Horatio Phelps of Worcester, for their well grown specimens of Hartford Prolific grapes; to S. H. Burbank, of Worcester, for his Delawares; to Horatio Phelps, of Worcester, for his Concords; and to S. V. Stone, and Ivers Phillips, for their collections of native grapes.

For the best dish of twelve specimens of Plums; a premium of two dollars, was awarded to Stephen S. Foster of Worcester.

For the largest and best collection of Quinces, the first Premium of three dollars, was given to Mrs. George A. Chamberlain.

For the second best collection, a premium of one dollar to E. F. Champney, of Grafton.

For the Committee,
D. WALDO LINCOLN.

Note.— In consequence of the regretted absence of Mr. Conant, enforced by illness, his place as Chairman, was filled by D. Waldo Lincoln, Esq., by whom the above report was prepared. [E. W. L.]

REPORT ON PEARS.

Hartley Williams, *Chairman;* John Milton Earle, Henry Phelps, John C. Newton, Emory Banister, David S. Messinger, of *Worcester;* and J. H. Moore, of *Charlton.*

The Committee on Pears having considered the matter specially assigned to them, beg leave to submit the following Report: —

Before proceeding to the more important duty committed to their charge, that of awarding premiums, your Committee take occasion to congratulate the Society upon the undiminished interest manifested by those engaged in the culture of Pears, in its annual exhibitions.

When we take into consideration the very unpropitious weather for fruit growing for which the past season has been so remarkable, and the fears which at one time were entertained by many, that the pear crop would prove a failure, it is with peculiar satisfaction that your Committee are able formally to declare what must have already come under the observation of those who have inspected the tables; that in variety, extent and excellence of fruit. the display of pears this year would compare favorably with the exhibitions of former years.

The whole number of contributors is sixty three, and the number of specimens six hundred and fourteen. This is an increase over last year, of eleven in the number of contributors, and of one hundred and sixty-nine in the number of specimens.

In the opinion of your Committee, the increased interest in the exhibition of the present year, indicated by the above comparison is largely due to the influence of the weekly meetings of the members, keeping alive that spirit of emulation, local pride, and public enterprise, so essential to the permanent success of the important work in which your society is engaged.

The untiring efforts and self-sacrificing labors of your faithful Secretary, have done much to encourage and sustain these meetings.

It would be but a repetition of what has often been urged upon your attention if we should in this connection speak of the great importance and value of the pear culture. That it is a source of luxury; none will deny, that it is also a source of pecuniary profit, when pursued with care and skill, is also susceptible of the clearest demonstration.

It is to be hoped that all the Members of the Society will be stimulated by the example of their associates, whose contributions to this department have done so much to give character and interest to the present fair, and that the return of another Anniversary will show a large increase in the number of Contributors to this important feature of our Horticultural Exhibition.

Your Committee recommend the award of the following premiums:

For the largest and best collection, of not less than three specimens of each variety, the first premium to D. Waldo Lincoln,..... $10 00

For the best twenty varieties of twelve specimens each, to Benjamin Butman,..... 10 00

For the second best, to Stephen S. Foster,..... 9 00

For the best fifteen varieties of twelve specimens each, to J. C. Ripley,..... 8 00

For the second best, to Samuel V. Stone,..... 6 00

For the best ten varieties of twelve specimens each, to George T. Rice,..... 6 00

For the second best, to Geo. Jaques,..... 4 00

For the best five varieties of twelve specimens each, to Jos. E. Phelps, 4 00
For the second best, to Wm. N. Green,..... 2 00
For the best twenty-four Seckel Pears on one dish, to Adams Foster, 1 00
For the best twelve Bartlett, to William Y. Holman,..... 1 00
" " " " Duch d'Angouleme, to William Howe..... 1 00
" " " " Louise Bonne de Jersey, to James Draper..... 1 00
" " " " Lawrence, to George F. Hoar,..... 1 00
" " " " Beurre Bose, to David S. Messinger,..... 1 00
" " " " Flemish Beauty, to Asa H. Allen,..... 1 00
" " " " Beurre d' Anjou, to Loring Coes,..... 1 00
" " " " Winter Nelis, to Edward W. Lincoln,..... 1 00

There were no specimens of the *Sheldon* pear, which the Committee considered worthy of a premium.

The Committee also recommend the award of the following gratuities: —

To Samuel H. Colton, for his collection of thirty-five varieties,.....$2 00
To Hartley Williams, for his collection of sixteen varieties,..... 2 00
To J. C. Lovell, for his collection of twenty-seven varieties,..... 1 00
To James F. Allen, for his collection of ten varieties,..... 1 00
To Mrs. Edwin Draper, for her collection of five varieties,..... 1 00
To N. K. Richardson, for his collection of twenty varieties,..... 1 00
To Edward L. Brigham, for one plate of Doyenne du Comice..... 1 00

Several of the collections above named embraced specimens of rare excellence, and in some instances the difference in merit between them, and those for which premiums were awarded, was so slight as to render the task of your Committee a very delicate and difficult one.

The single plate of Doyenne du Comice, exhibited by Edward L. Brigham, were remarkable for their size, beauty and perfection. This pear has fully met the anticipations of its friends, and has already taken rank amongst our very best varieties.

The fruit is of excellent quality: the tree is hardy and vigorous, and produces a regular and abundant crop. The senior member of your Committee, who was one of the first officers of this Society, and whose active participation in its doings since that time, enables him to "speak from the record," remarked, when examining this specimen, that it was the finest of its variety ever exhibited before this society.

There were many other collections on exhibition, which were entitled to high commendation, and but for the rules of the Society, and the limited means at your Committee's disposal, would have received a more substantial token of approbation than a mere complimentary notice.

It is to be hoped that the contributors of these collections, will not be disheartened by their failure to win in the competition for a premium on this occasion, for their efforts if continued, cannot fail of ultimate success.

Respectfully Submitted,

HARTLEY WILLIAMS, Chairman.

REPORT ON VEGETABLES.

Stephen Salisbury, *Chairman;* Charles Belcher, Marshall Flagg, James Green, George Barber, Cyrus K. Hubbard, of *Worcester;* and Newell Wood, of *Millbury.*

The labors of the Committee were more easily discharged this year, than was anticipated from the large collections, and still larger number of contributors of past years. The small number of entries is no doubt owing to the fact that the season has been unfavorable to the growth and perfection of specimens, and for that reason, more credit is due to those who presented such worthy representatives to our exhibition. While enough is as good as a feast, we barely escaped no feast in this department this year. The number of entries was two hundred and fifty-five, made by eighteen contributors; while the entries of last year were two hundred and ninety-six, from forty-one contributors. Five members of the Committee made examination and awarded the following premiums and gratuities:

For the largest and best collection of seventy-five varieties to Alden H. Sears,.....$10 00
For the second best sixty-three varieties, to Sylvanus Sears,..... 8 00
For the third best, to Geo. A. Adams,..... 4 00
For the best three pure Canada Crook-neck squashes, to Elisha Kelly, 1 00
For the best three Marrow squashes, to Alden H. Sears,..... 1 00
For the best three Yokohama squashes, to Edward W. Lincoln,..... 1 00
For the best three Cabbages, to Charles Nash,..... 1 00
For the best three Cauliflowers, to Stephen Salisbury,..... 2 00
For the best twelve ears of Sweet Corn, to Charles Richardson,..... 1 00
For the best twelve Tomatoes, to Stephen Salisbury,..... 1 00

The Committee would award $2 00 to William Coe, and $1 00 to O. S. Mowry, of Shrewsbury as gratuities for their collections, also to Stephen Salisbury fifty cents for a plate of early Tomatoes. To Geo. A. Adams $1 00 for his Turban Squashes, which did not receive a premium from doubts as to their purity; and to Perry Thayer, $1 00 for his Marrow Squashes, which failed of a premium for the same reason.

Mr. John B. Pratt contributed a plate of very superior Tilden Tomatoes. Mrs. S. Parsons, a Turban Squash of 1866; Mr. James Draper, a plate of fine Tomatoes; Mr. Wm. Y. Holman, Squashes; Frank Adams, five years of age, Ornamental Gourds; Mrs. Warren Williams, a fine Marrow Squash of 1866; Mr. Charles Nash, a fine specimen of Scotch Kale. The Committee noticed two fine Water Melons as worthy of commendation.

For the Committee,
STEPHEN SALISBURY, Jr.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

EDWARD W. LINCOLN, *Secretary and Librarian.*

To the Members of the Worcester County Horticultural Society :

The number of contributors and of the entries made by them at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition in 1867, is herewith submitted for information and record, in connection with a similar comparative statement for the two years preceding : —

Articles.	1867.		1866.		1865.	
	Contributors.	Entries.	Contributors.	Entries.	Contributors.	Entries.
Apples,	51	568	27	262	30	205
Pears,	65	621	52	445	71	660
Grapes, Peaches, &c.	50	138	34	92	50	181
Flowers, Plants, &c.	32	929	32	214	18	476
Vegetables,	18	255	41	296	38	492
	216	2511	186	1309	207	2014

The gross receipts at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, were in

	Admission.	Sales of Fruit.	Memberships.
1867.	$451 23	$36 15	$98 00
1866.	290 40	23 85	90 00

The official year that has just elapsed was one of unexampled prosperity. Whether we take into consideration the accession of Members, the constant use of the Library, or the popularity of our Exhibitions, as manifested by the patronage bestowed upon them ; there can be no question that, in each and all of those departments which come within the province of the Society, the success of its operations is unprecedented in its history. Details that properly constitute no part of this Report are necessarily embraced within its scope upon the present occasion. In the unforeseen and prolonged absence of the President, a portion of his duties have devolved upon others. Not the least important or interesting of these will be that of explaining the actual financial position of the Society ; a labor all the more cheerfully assumed, in that, the burthen which has heretofore oppressed the Corporation has been so sensibly alleviated.

No startling discoveries have been made during the past year, within the wide domains of that Science to which the Society is devoted. Yet investigation has been steadily prosecuted, and new and clearer light thrown upon many problems that have hitherto perplexed the pomologist. There can scarcely be a member of this Society, for instance, who has not had his hopes highly excited by the exceeding profusion of bloom upon his trees in the early Spring. To a most remarkable extent was this the case, the present year. Yet how keen the disappointment to find so few of those blossoms fecundated! How much inferior the actual fruition to the original promise! An examination of some of these flowers, of the Duchesse more particularly, under the microscope, by Mr. Thomas P. James, Botanist of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, disclosed the fact that "they were very weak in their organization; although apparently perfectly hermaphrodite; that the stamens were evidently feeble, the pollen limited in quantity, and the entire flowers in a low state of vitality." Professor Horatio C. Wood, Lecturer on Botany in the University of Pennsylvania, after a similar examination, concluded that the "female organs are defectively organized, and that the pollen grains are not well developed." He deems it "highly probable that the appreciable want of strength is associated with a similar, but less apparent, degradation as regards quality; and that there is a consequent want of power in the germinal matter, both of the pollen and ovary, which is the real cause of the sterility." He then inquires if it "is not probable that the source of the trouble is to be found in the *excessive production of blossoms?* Of all the various life-functions of the plant, the process of seed-producing is, *par excellence*, the exhaustive one. It is well known how it often cripples or even kills a previously vigorous tree. Further, the period in the reproductive process, the worst for the plant, in which it eats up its life-capital fastest, is that in which the blossoms are perfected, the pollen shed and the ovule impregnated." And sums up with the conclusion that "if, as seems most probable, weakness of the sexual organs is the cause of sterility, and this weakness is dependent upon *excessive blossoming*, the remedy would appear to be found in some check to that excess." Of the best practical method of applying such check, he adds that it is not within his province, neither is he competent to judge. But it may be pertinent to mention here, that Dr. E. S. Hull, of Alton, one of the most skilful pomologists of Illinois, finds it for his interest to thin out the clusters of buds, after formation; without suffering them to continue the process of exhaustion. And this minute and apparently toilsome task he performs, not for amusement, nor to a small extent, but to his great profit, and upon hundreds of trees. Imitators of his industrious example would doubtless derive equal advantage from the practice.

The Pear-Blight is, perhaps, the most grievous curse inflicted upon the pomologist. No satisfactory explanation ever accounted for it: no remedy for it was ever discovered. Under these circumstances, the theory of Mr. Berkmans, approved, as he asserts, by the assured test of success, and certainly supported by

the weight of his great name, may merit your notice. He states that the microscope reveals the fact that the "cellular tissue of plants is composed of *utricules*, of different forms, but attached to each other and continuous, having communication with each other by invisible pores, and filled with a liquid commonly called *sap*." This sap may flow too freely, thus over-feeding; or, if the reverse is the case, starvation ensues. In the event of a too free flow of the vegetable blood, i. e. *sap*, the utricules are filled with a greater supply than they can contain. This produces rupture and inward extravasation, and is a hœmorhage which at once brings death to the plant, or part of the plant where the accident happens. He adds: "Blight, as already remarked, cannot be cured; but it may be modified, or its further progress arrested. If we examine closely the affected trees, we (will!) find that many of their branches are of a uniform thickness for a considerable length, and often thicker at the upper end than at the base. This is owing to what, in gardener's language, is known as *bark-bound*, and those are the places where Blight will, in most cases, appear. The cellular tissue in those places is compressed and inadequate to contain and transmit the sap necessary to the normal functions of the tree. Now, to prevent Blight in those places, give a *longitudinal* cut, so as to divide the bark of the limb of the tree; this at once remedies the evil, the utricules are relieved of compression, and can perform their functions at ease." Mr. Berkmans adds that he first published this theory in 1860, and that his practice subseqently, by its results, has convinced him of its correctness. It only remains here, to be enforced upon your notice that he recommends Incision, as a method of *prevention*, and not of *cure*. His exalted reputation as a Pomologist should command attention for even his least suggestion; while the fatal nature of the disease, against which he would thus provide, exacts that no mode should be neglected that holds out the slightest promise of staying its ravages.

The influences that affect the vitality or fecundity of trees are, as throughout the natural world, diversified and numerous. The tree, or shrub, which endures without protection, or even shelter, the most vigorous winter in one section of the Republic, suffers serious injury, if it is not utterly destroyed, in a lower latitude; and, as it would appear, a milder climate. The Cydonia Japonica, that irradiates our gardens with its crimson splendor before the later snows have melted, is scarcely half-hardy throughout Central and Western New York. In a hedge of it, grown by your Secretary, the first of the kind in Worcester, and even yet the sole perfect specimen; which is forty feet in length, and at least fifteen years of age, no trace of damage from frost was ever detected; although, once at least, within that period, the mercury indicated the almost Arctic temperature of twenty-eight degrees below zero. The conditions of culture are so various, in different localities, that no arbitrary rule can be framed or applied. Yet the difficulty of establishing some fixed law does not absolve us from the obligation of attempting as close an approximation to one as possible. To that end the experience of all should be con-

sulted. Pomologists everywhere should disclose the results of their observation, that the wisdom may be gained which is promised from a multitude of counsellors. As a partial contribution to this object, your Secretary prepared a series of tables, which are now submitted for your examination, illustrative of the extent to which the "Select List" of Pears recommended by the Society has been exemplified by our most skilful cultivators, and inferentially the success with which they are grown. These tables comprise a period of four years, including every variety of temperature and of one season of inordinate and excessive moisture, so, also, another if extreme and parching drought.

The Society must deduce its own conclusions from these indisputable facts, which assuredly speak louder than all the words that were uttered in the discussions of past winters.

Of what value is laudation of the Fulton and Henry Fourth if the practice of members so emphatically contradicts it? The Glout Morceau with difficulty holds its own. Take even the Sheldon, with its high repute, and note that it would have scarcely appeared upon your tables, for the last two years, had it not been entered ignominiously, as a unit, in a collection of sixty-five varieties.

A. D., 1864.

Autumn.	1st. 20.	2d. 20.	1st. 15.	2d. 15.	1st. 10.	2d. 10.	1st. 5.	2d. 5.	Total
Belle Lucrative	1	1		1		1	1	1	6
Paradise d'Automne			1	1	1		1	1	5
Flemish Beauty	1		1	1	1	1	1		6
Seckel	1	1	1	1		1	1		6
Louise Bonne de Jersey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Marie Louise	1		1	1	1	1	1		6
Fulton			1	1	1				3
Henry IV				1					1
Sheldon			1		1		1	1	3
Winter.									
Beurre Bosc	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Urbaniste	1	1	1	1	1				5
Beurre d' Anjou	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Duchesse d'Angouleme	1		1	1	1		1	1	6
Winter Nelis	1			1	1		1	1	5
Glout Morceau			1	1	1	1			4

A. D., 1865.

Autumn.	1st. 20.	2d. 20.	1st. 13.	2d. 13.	1st. 10.	2d. 10.	1st. 5.	2d. 5.	Total
Belle Lucrative	1			1		1	1		4
Paradise d'Automne	1	1	1	1		1			5
Flemish Beauty	1		1	1		1		1	5
Seckel	1	1	1	1		1		1	6
Louise Bonne	1		1		1	1	1	1	6
Marie Louise	1								1
Fulton		1							
Henry IV									1
Sheldon				1					
Winter.									
Beurre Bosc	1	1	1	1	1		1		7
Urbaniste	1			1		1	1		4
Beurre d' Anjou	1	1	1		1				4
Duchesse d'Angouleme	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7
Winter Nelis		1	1	1		1			5
Glout Morceau		1	1	1			1		4

A. D., 1866.

Autumn.	Best Coll.	1st. 20.	2d. 20.	1st. 15.	2d. 15.	1st. 10.	2d. 10.	1st. 5.	2d. 5.	Total.
Belle Lucrative...	1	1	1	1	1		1			6
Paradise d'Automne.....	1	1	1			1	1			5
Flemish Beauty.....	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	7
Seckel.....	1	1	1	1				1	1	6
Louise Bonne de Jersey.	1	1		1	1		1	1		6
Marie Louise.....	1	1	1			1	1		1	6
Fulton.....			1							1
Henry IV.			1							1
Sheldon.....	1									1
Winter.										
Beurre Bosc.....	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	7
Urbaniste.	1	1			1	1		1		5
Beurre d'Anjou.....	1	1	1	1	1	1				6
Duchesse d'Angouleme..	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		7
Winter Nelis.....	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	7
Glout Morceau.....		1	1	1					1	4

A. D., 1867.

Autumn.	Best Coll.	1st. 20.	2d. 20.	1st. 15.	2d. 15.	1st. 10.	2d. 10.	1st. 5.	2d. 5.	Total.
Belle Lucrative.....	1	1	1		1	1		1		6
Paradise d'Automne.....	1	1	1	1		1				5
Flemish Beauty.....		1	1			1			1	4
Seckel.....	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Louise Bonne.....	1	1	1	1		1		1		6
Marie Louise.....	1	1	1	1	1				1	6
Fulton.....	1								1	3
Henry IV.....										
Sheldon.....	1									1
Winter.										
Beurre Bosc.....	1	1	1	1		1				5
Urbaniste.	1	1			1	1	1			5
Beurre d'Anjou.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Duchesse d'Angouleme...	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	8
Winter Nelis.....	1	1	1			1			1	5
Glout Morceau.....	1		1						1	3

Many persons who were formerly in the habit of using a solution of Gum Shellac, as an application to the wounds upon their trees, occasioned by pruning, have been deterred, of late years, by the unconscionable price of that article. It will be grateful intelligence to all who dislike leads and paints, to learn that Gas Tar is a convenient and unsurpassed styptic for such wounds. Composed essentially of Carbon, it contains no element that is noxious, while its instant and perfect adhesion renders it infinitely superior to Grafting-Wax, or Shellac. Trees of the Cherry and Pear can be shown, which, after an exposure of three years, display as healthy cicatrices as the most fastidious and exacting horticultural surgeon could desire.

The Bottles and Stands for Cut Flowers have been more than doubled in number during the past year. This increase, absolutely unavoidable as it was, involved considerable expense, which was much diminished by the courteous generosity of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in the loan of their moulds or patterns. Mr. John C. Newton, the efficient Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, was indefatigable in this matter, and the gratitude of the Society is justly his due. Even with these augmented facilities, so great was the contributions of Flowers at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, that there were but few Stands unused. Without the additional supply members would have felt that their interests had not been properly cared for, and that by an unwise and untimely parsimony, the Sociciety had purchased its own disgrace.

A quantity of Vegetable Seeds was received in Spring from Hon. John D. Baldwin; which, when sub-divided, were distributed among the members at the weekly meetings. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture forwarded some packages of Flower-seeds. The latter were assigned to different persons, chiefly ladies, upon their promises, express or implied to report upon their value and vitality. In the non-fulfilment of those promises, will be found an explanation of the inability to decide whether "any good thing" had, at last, "come out" of Washington.

A PEST.

The accounts from the Western States of the destruction caused by the *Doryphora decemlineata*, or Ten-Lined Spearman, to the existence of which Insect your attention was invited in the Report for 1866, are well calculated to awaken increased alarm among cultivators of the potato. It is astonishing, and would be disgraceful, were we authorized from their past history to expect anything better, that our State Societies and Boards of Agriculture should await, with such stolid indifference, the steady approach of this pest. Its origin and history are alike obscure. It is reported to have had its origin in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains, to which lovely region we are said to be indebted for the Currant-Worm. Like that interesting creature, and the Cotton, or Army Worm, it appears from the most precise accounts, to propagate without ceasing. A new brood is ready to succeed the old one when

that has "fed fat its ancient grudge." Surely those within whose especial province it lies would be well employed in devising means to stay the invasion of this fearful scourge!

The great improvement in quality of the *Squash*, during our seasons of excessive humidity, over its condition in similar periods of drought, is worthy of attention. Why should this most excellent vegetable be dryer and of higher flavor, when grown in long continued rains, than under the influence of warm and uninterrupted sunshine? For that such is the fact, the experience of many cultivators, in different localities, concurs to determine.

RESTORE THE FORESTS.

A proposition was introduced into the Senate of the United States, at its last session, by Senator Cole of California, to grant a certain amount of public lands to the States, the proceeds of sales of which should be employed for the encouragement of the growth of Forest Trees. It is respectfully submitted for your consideration, whether it may not be advisable to authorize the Officers of this Society to memorialize Congress in aid of the measure. The evil which Senator Cole desires to check and remedy is of alarming proportions. Our climate is deteriorating, while our resources diminish and our very means of ordinary livelihood are sensibly affected for the worse by the reckless and improvident de-foresting of the State. Many a hillside has been laid bare that once sheltered the valley smiling at its feet. The uses of large bodies of woods, in tempering too fierce a blast; or in retaining upon a level vast masses of snow, keeping them alike from impassible drifts or from too sudden liquefaction, cannot be too highly appreciated. Thousands of acres are now lying worse than useless, not worth the taxes for which they are annually assessed, that might and ought to be made a source of advantage to the community and profit to the owner. If they can only be planted under the stimulus of a bounty, who shall say that such bounty was not well bestowed? Restore our Forests and with them will come back a more equable temperature, fewer extremes of drought and flood, and a reasonable prospect of a reward for his industry to him who sets out and tends the Peach-tree and the Vine.

THE WEEKLY EXHIBITIONS.

The Weekly Exhibitions that were originated at the same time with the removal of the Library, have been continued throughout the past year. For six years, in succession, have these displays been held, without a single omission on account of inadvertence or sickness. That they have been productive of benefit to the Society, must be obvious to the most superficial observer. That great good has resulted to the community is evident from personal observation, as well as from the admissions of those who have been induced to become members. The usual comparative statement of the entries, or number of articles, of each variety exhibited during the past official year, exclusive of the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, is herewith submitted: —

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Anno Domini.	Strawberries.	Raspberries, Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Grapes, &c.,	Apples.	Pears.	Flowers. Plants, &c.	Aggregate.
1862	29	98	160	512	632	1431
1863	44	83	366	374	616	1483
1864	36	79	140	184	1008	1447
1865	48	104	41	161	1643	1997
1866	23	151	38	292	811	1315
1867	43	112	51	264	1716	2186

It will be noticed that the total number of entries in 1867, exceeds those of the year previous considerably more than the entries of that year fell short of those in 1865. Weather prophets, or the men who "told you so," may compare analogies, or reason from effect to cause as, by a system of logic somewhat peculiar to our good old Commonwealth, is so often done. But accurate observers, those who keep watch of the Thermometer and are not oblivious that the Rain-fall can be measured, know well that in sudden and extraordinary changes of temperature, in lavish moisture or parching drought, are to be found the inexplicable but adverse conditions that regulate if they do not govern all pomological development.

The Annual Exhibition of *Roses* was held under some disadvantages. The continual rains, which were so favorable to the cultivation of the smaller Fruits, were less genial in their influence upon the development of the Queen of Flowers. Nevertheless, there are some whom storms cannot daunt and who regard in that, which to others would present an insuperable obstacle, only an

additional and even trivial impediment. The ladies who have so often rescued this department of the operations of the Society from disgrace, wearied not in their well doing upon this occasion; and indeed, so brilliant was the display that, by common suggestion and unanimous consent, it was prolonged throughout the evening of the same, and the whole of the ensuing day. It is however, due to truth to state, that the appreciation by the public of this unprecedented Exhibition, was not such as to encourage its frequent repetition. Whether this indifference was occasioned by the manifold invisible and impalpable attractions of the *Federal Holiday*, scarcely recognized officially and not at all publicly celebrated; or by the strong repulsion of the exorbitant dues exacted to defray the expenses; it would be alike difficult and unprofitable to determine.

The show of STRAWBERRIES was unusually extensive, as well as of superior quality. Probably there has been no season, for a long period of years, in which this most delicious fruit has had a fairer opportunity to show of what developement it is capable. The deep, yet light, snows of winter protected the beds with a covering for which the art of man can devise no substitute. With the advent of Spring came timely rains to settle the plants disturbed by alternate frost and thaw. From the date of blooming, until that of fruition, there was no period in which the Strawberry lacked its most essential and welcome nutriment,— copious rains. And so on, all through the season of gathering, showers fell precisely when they were wanted to develop the smaller berries and perfect those further advanced. This ample credit belongs to 1867, and it is thus openly put upon record.

Of the varieties exhibited, the *Triomphe de Gand* far surpassed its competitors. And, if the experience of those who have grown it for several successive years is of any worth, its adaptation to the climate and soil of Worcester cannot be disputed. The *Wilson* was shown, of a better quality than is customary with that much abused sort, which bears much the same relation to Strawberries in general, that the Bartlett Pear does to its congeners. Hardy in Illinois as in Massachusetts; bearing profusely everywhere, and of good quality when ripe; let those who have only sneers at the mention of its name produce its equal for general cultivation! There is no variety, however, of which the plantation should be so frequently renewed, as there is no other which, by excessive fecundity, so exhausts its native vigor. And yet it may be doubted, whether with suitable care and culture the actual yield in bulk, (quality of course being disregarded,) of the Wilson, would exceed that of a bed of the Triomphe of similar extent.

The display of RASPBERRIES, in their Season, was even more limited than usual. For some inexplicable reason the culture of this fruit, with its great and many excellencies, does not commend itself in this community. Nevertheless it is of as easy growth as the Strawberry, is longer lived, and the product can be gathered with greater facility. Of the kinds that best deserve attention, Brinckle's Orange, which was first exhibited here by your Secretary in 1865,

stands unrivalled for quality. The canes, however, like those of all plants bearing light-colored fruit, are unusually tender. Knevett's Giant, a superb variety exhibited by Mr. O. B. Hadwen during the past season, is highly praised in the vicinity of Boston as also by our esteemed associate, Hon. Jona. Forbush of Bolton. Of the absolute or even relative merits of the Philadelphia, which has been so loudly vaunted and so widely dispersed, your Secretary does not feel, after three years of patient experiment, that he can speak with decision. It was originally advertised as perfectly hardy, having endured without injury a temperature of eighteen degrees below zero (18-0.) New canes in the immediate vicinity of Oak street in the city of Worcester, that were purposely left exposed throughout the winter of 1865-6, where they were not even protected by snow, suffered no harm. But canes that were similarly exposed during the past winter, although shielded by snow almost to their tips, were seriously injured. The Society will doubtless share the surprise of the Secretary upon learning from Dr. Joseph Draper, the accurate observer for the Smithsonian Institute at the State Lunatic Hospital, that "the coldest day of the winter was the 19th of January, on which day the Thermometer stood at zero at 7 o'clock A. M; at 9 degrees above at 2 P. M; and at 4 degrees above at 9. P. M. It did not fall below zero at any time of observation during the winter."

If the Philadelphia Raspberry cannot endure such a tempered severity of climate, its popularity in this region will be of brief duration.

> "Alas! since I so soon was done for,
> I wonder what I was begun for."

It will be allowed one more trial to effectually test its hardiness, when, if it fails it will cease to cumber the ground.

A few CURRANTS upon our tables afforded melancholy testimony to the capacity for destruction of the Insect-Pest which has recently attacked that almost indispensable fruit. What shall be done to check, if not to prevent, the ravages of the *Currant Worm?* It seems almost ludicrous to us, in Massachusetts, who consider from fifty to one hundred large bushes none too many for the adequate supply of a family, as we listen to Pomologists in New York urging the application of costly and scarce drugs. Even were powdered White Hellebore more accessible and cheaper than it is, how would its use be possible for a whole summer? And yet from the first of June, when the earliest perforations in the young leaves were observed, until the last atom of foliage was devoured, did these ravenous Insects continue their career of devastation. The process of generation goes on without intermission. When you flatter yourself that, by a laborious and painful process of picking off the worms by hand, they are all destroyed, a slight inspection of the foliage, as yet intact, will disclose the results of that untiring industry by which the female fly has essayed to make the "last state of that man worse than his first." Stripping the leaves simply anticipates the work of the worm. Efforts to crush the eggs upon the leaves, suffering the latter to remain upon the bushes, afford

a "gay and festive" occupation for those who like it. It has been suggested that the State Constabulary might employ the spare moments of their fascinating and lucrative profession, in this work of genuine, even if not ostentatious, philanthropy. But to this it is objected that the Currant Worm is a *nuisance* conceded by all; and that to engage in a business which would provoke neither controversy nor ill-feeling, would be alike uncongenial to their tastes and foreign to their nature. The American Robin, secure in its statutory panoply, with its bill profoundly inserted in a superb strawberry, cocks his eye impudently and would be pleased to know of what benefit he was ever yet found that he, a vegetarian! "*Natus consumere fruges*," should be expected to make a meal off such disgusting objects! No! what we want, *and must obtain*, if we would have Currants, is a material of cheap purchase and easy application; that will at the same time do its appointed work. Whale-Oil Soap is beneficial to the bush, kills many of the young worms, and is also innocuous to the fruit, which some have doubted. But its use is not pleasant, nor is it sufficiently thorough. A limited experiment by your Secretary, sustained, as it is, by the practice, on a large scale, of Pomologists in New York and elsewhere, induces hope and almost warrants a belief that the required panacea for this affliction will be found in *Air-Slaked Lime*. If the Worms can survive an application of such caustic properties, if not administered by itself, after a previous aspersion with Whale-Oil Soap, it will be safe to conclude that the impenetrable cuticle of the Rhinoceros is but the diaphanous panoply of the Black Crook, in comparison with the vermicular epidermis. For the benefit of those who would make trial of the Lime another season, it should be stated that it is an article seldom kept on hand by dealers, but one which all can easily prepare for themselves, if they attend to it in time.

The injury to Fruit of all sorts, as well as to some kinds of vegetables, by the *Birds* which the Great and General Court has taken under its sagacious protection, proved even more extensive during the late season than ever before. Some may have thought that too much consequence was given to this matter, in these Reports. On the contrary, not a tenth part of the annoyance and damage to Pomologists, occasioned by these "chartered libertines," has ever been narrated. Yet all remonstrance is met with the coolest indifference. We are asked if we are unwilling to spare a few Cherries in return for the *countless!* benefits conferred by the Birds? Were it a question of Cherries, simply, but little interest would be felt in the subject. But in 1867, as in every year preceding, the Triomphe de Gand among Strawberries, the Franconia and Brinckle's Orange among Raspberries, the Bartlett among Pears, and the Diana and Delaware among Grapes did "daintily furnish forth" the feasts of our modern Harpies. During the present year, Peas have been neatly extracted from their pods, and the kernels stripped from ears of sweet corn, as a sort of variety in, feathered larceny. And of all the birds, thus protected and thus destructive, no species is so hurtful, because no other is so active or numerous, as the *Turdus Migratorius* — the American, or pseudo Robin.

Mr. E. W. Samuels, in his recent elaborate compilation upon the Ornithology of New England, constitutes himself the especial champion of the pseudo Robin. He enlarges upon his consumption of angle-worms, and even enters into a minute computation of the numbers that he can and will devour in a state of confinement and *deprivation of all other food*. And he puts a clincher upon his argument in behalf of his client, by the cool assertion that the work of the Robin is not appreciated, because it is all done before people are astir in the morning! How strange, that only the swift witnesses to the good qualities of this bird should arise with the lark!

Now, for a reply: — Your Secretary does not depend upon his individual observation, direct and positive though that be. True — he has seen the Robin "come down like the wolf on the fold," upon his choicest fruits, and destroy in a few moments, the labor of months and years. He has beheld the very finest specimens of the Strawberry and Raspberry, in the development and exhibition of which he anticipated more pleasure than from their consumption, disappear down the insatiate maw of these statutory pets. Quite recently, before sunrise, when they ought to have been diligently occupied in Mr. Samuels' works of matutinal usefulness, he has startled them, in the great flocks into which they gather before migration, from his Bartlett Pears, where they had been presenting their bills and impressing their private stamp without Federal or proprietary license. But he prefers rather to rely upon the evidence of his Excellency the Governor, the Commander-in-Chief of an Army and Navy that yet was inadequate to save his pears. Upon the testimony of Ex-Governor Lincoln, whose Strawberries were sedulously tended and, when ripening, summarily stripped. Upon Messrs. John C. Ripley, George Jaques, O. B. Hadwen, and J. Henry Hill, gentlemen deservedly high in your confidence and in that of the public, who all concur in the opinion that the Robin is an incorrigible thief and an unmitigated nuisance. Gentlemen are they, also, of refined sensibilities, to whom the song of birds is as joyous as to those whose exquisite tenderness is wounded by the proposed outlawry of a single variety of the feathered race. Members of this Society are constantly testing new discoveries in Pomology, as much for the public benefit as for their private enjoyment. Their labor will be utterly nugatory, if its fruit is to be subject to legalized depredation. Your Secretary would advise that the Society address a memorial to the General Court, asking for a repeal of all laws that protect the American Robin; or their amendment, so far at least, as to allow individuals to shoot them upon their own premises.

The Library is in its customary good condition. Too many of the books are in cloth binding, a fact which should be considered in their use. It has not been deemed advisable to incur much expense in re-binding, at present. Great inconvenience is occasioned by the limited accommodations provided for the volumes which are surely and not so very slowly increasing in number. Should it be the policy of the Society to retain its Hall in its present location, the Librarian would recommend the erection of cases upon the entire western side

of the Library room. It will cost but little more to construct the whole series of shelves at once, than to do it by piecemeal, while the space at the base of the cases would soon be required for the storage of the printed Transactions, unbound pamphlets, and newspapers. Should it be in contemplation to alter the location of the Hall at a period not very distant, it might be better to bear with immediate inconveniences, so long as they do not become actually unendurable. In a new Library Room, the cases or shelves would constitute a portion of the work of construction, and be fashioned upon one general and convenient plan. Shelves shounld be adapted to receive books. Books cannot be razeed to fit shelves.

The usual tabular statement is appended, showing the use which has been made of the Library during the past and preceding years. It will be observed that the same gratifying increase is denoted, to which the Librarian has been privileged to invite your attention upon former occasions. Members do wisely and well to consult these volumes, which have been collected without regard to cost, but with reference solely to their adaptation to the pursuits of the Horticulturist.

In 1860.....72 volumes.
" 1861.....64 "

At this date the Library was removed to the Hall.

In 1862.....114 volumes.
" 1863.....133 "
" 1864.....179 "

January 1st, 1865, to Nov. 1st, 1865, 318 volumes. (The Official year was altered.)

Nov. 1st, 1865, to Oct. 31st, 1866.....387 volumes.
" " 1866 " " 1867.....470 "

A Catalogue is also submitted of additions to the Library of the Society, during the past Official year, whether accruing from donation or purchase.

The Forest-Tree Culturist, by A. S. Fuller; Society.
New England Fruit Trees, by George Jacques; J. M. Earle.
Gardener's Text-Book, by P. A. Schenck; " " "
American Fruit Garden Companion, by E. Sayers; " " "
" Flower " " " " " " " " "
New England Fruit Book, by Robt. Manning; " " "
" " " " second edition, by John M. Ives; " " "
Mulberry Tree and Silk Culture, by J. H. Cobb; " " "
Transactions of Ohio Pomological Society, 8th session; " " "
Harris on Insects, rev. ed. colored illustrations; Hon. S. Salisbury.
Manual of Architecture and Landscape Gardening, by G. E. & F. W. Woodward; society.

Agricultural Department, Report of, 1865 ; Hon. J. D. Baldwin.
Gardening for Profit, by Peter Henderson ; society.
Horticultural Annual, 1867 ; society.
Agricultural Annual, 1867 ; "
Transactions of Mass. Horticultural Society, 1866 ; Mass. Society.
" " Wor. Co. Mech. Association, 1866 ; Mech. Ass'n.
" " The Illinois Horticultural Society, 1866 ; W. C. Flagg.
American Fruit Culturist, revised edition, 1866, J. J. Thomas ; society.
American Agriculturist, Vol. 25 ; society.
Country Gentleman, Vols, 27 & 28 ; society.
Hovey's Magazine, Vol. 32 ; "
Horticulturist, Vol. 21 ; "
Gardener's Monthly, Vol. 8 ; "
Agriculture of Massachusetts, 2d series : 1866-7 ; C. L. Flint.
Catalogue of Library of Mass. Hort, Society ; Mass. Society.
Squashes, and How to Grow Them, by J. J. H. Gregory ; society.
Small Fruit Culturist, by A. S. Fuller ; society.
American Grape Culture and Wine Making, by P. B. Mead ; society.
New England Farmer. Series : Vol. 3, F. W. Paine.
" " " " 4, " " "
" " " " 5, " " "
" " " " 7, " " "
" " " " 11, " " "
" " " " 12, " " "
" " " " 14, " " "
The Pig, by Sam'l Youatt, revised edition, London ; society.
" Birds of New England and Adjacent States, by E. A. Samuels ; society.
" Poultry Book, by W. B. Tegetmeior, London ; society.
Record of Horticulture for 1866, by A. S. Fuller ; society.
American Pomology ; Apples ; by John A. Warder ; society.
The Poultry Yard, by Miss E. Watts, London ; society.
" Kitchen Garden, by E. S. Delamer ; society.
Geyelin's Poultry Breeding, Ed. by C. L. Flint ; society.
Bee Keeping, by M. Quimby, revised edition, 1866 ; society.
Draining for Profit and for Health, by Geo. E. Waring, Jr. ; society.
Chemistry of the Farm and The Sea, by J. R. Nichols ; society.
10th Annnual Report, Board of Comrs. of N. Y. Central Park ; A. H. Green.
The Flower Garden, by E. S. Delamer, London ; society.
Illustrated Strawberry Culturist, by A. S. Fuller ; society.
British Ferns and Their Allies, by Thos. Moore, London ; society.
Butterflies, by Theodore Coleman, London, 1867 ; society.
Cordon Training of Fruit Trees, by T. Collings Bribaut ; society.
with Supplement, by C. M. Hovey ; society.

Death, the *grim Reaper*, in gathering his annual harvest, has borne heavily upon the *Federal Department of Agriculture*. These Reports, in strict justice to the interests of the Horticulturist everywhere, have dwelt, in the estimation of some, perhaps too heavily upon trivial short-comings and venial faults. The honest motive of the citizen, must be the sufficient excuse of the official. But lifting up a corner of the pall we behold a light, hitherto unduly obscured that can be kindled into illumination. The learned Entomologist of that Department, whose fame in other lands aptly illustrates the proverb that "a man is not without honor, save in his own country," sparing no toil and utilizing all leisure, is understood to have prepared and to have almost in a state of readiness for the press, a most exhaustive and thorough treatise upon the Insects of the United States. Let merit be encouraged! Let justice be done to virtue even where further censure is arrested by that inexorable hand to which high and low alike must bow in helpless submission. The result of the indefatigable labors of Mr. Glover has been anticipated with impatience by all who, aware of their necessity, at the same time had not forgotten that "patient waiters are no losers." If the attention of Congress cannot otherwise be diverted from the lucrative task of "making their own calling and election sure," it may be worth your while to consider whether a memorial of this Society would be ill-timed or impertinent, which should solicit some slight encouragement for the labors of a public servant whose sole aim, in a subordinate position, has been to advance public prosperity and promote the general welfare.

A strong desire has been expressed by many of the oldest and most influential members of the Society, that the Premiums offered by it should be largely increased. Should this be done, the Secretary would earnestly recommend an entire revision, or reconstruction of the existing schedule. A division of the fruit into distinct classes, with an inflexible rule that the entry of a given number of varieties, under a specific head, shall restrict those varieties to that particular competition. It might not be unwise to propose Premiums for *Seedling* Flowers, or Fruits, of a *future year*, to allow time for their development. Who can tell that the desired Strawberry, — more prolific than the Wilson, better flavored than the Triomphe, may not be educed from the spirit of emulation thus awakened by the hope of winning the Society's *Cup?* For it may be worth considering whether, in the offer of new and additional Premiums, a more enduring and wiser form should not be given to our bounty, by the substitution of Plate, in some instances, for money. The Duchesse Goblet, the Crawford Spoons, or the Diana Salver, would not discourage the growth of Pear, Peach, or Grape, while they would remain *in speciosissima re*, — "*A thing of beauty and a joy forever.*"

A wider dissemination of the Premium-List appears, however, to the Secretary, absolutely indispensable. As distributed now, by separate address through the mail, the Annual Autumnal schedule reaches only those who are already members of the Society. It is a serious question, whether its best interests would not be promoted and the contributions to its Exhibition largely aug-

mented, by the adoption of some method of publishing to the *whole* community the inducements offered for their co-operation. Whether, in Saxon, that ought to be intelligible to all but a Corporation Treasurer, Jonathan Forbush, or Jona. D. Wheeler, should be exacted to pay freight upon their contributions, generously collated for competition upon terms of equality with the members resident in the *Shire?* Our excentric friends are granted, by their concentric agents, the Trustees, a grace of a few half hours. Would it materially prejudice the best interests of the Society, to allow, in meritorious cases, *per diem* and *mileage?* Your further attention, in connection with the entire subject, is invited to the policy of a longer retention of the rule by which a discount is reserved upon all premiums awarded to persons *not* "Members of the Society." Whatever its advantages in practice, it is believed to be consistently disregarded. Does it "improve the practice, or promote the knowledge of Horticulture," for this Society to occupy itself in shaving its own *promises to pay the modern money?*

The task of finding gentlemen competent and willing to serve upon the Committees of the Society at its Annual Autumnal Exhibition, is becoming, with each successive year, one of increasing and greater difficulty. The labor of a Chairman, especially, of one of these committees, exacts time and involves much annoyance and perplexity. Superadded to these, he supplies in his own person, a most conspicuous target for the shafts of disappointed competitors, who fancy themselves the victims of intentional injustice. Even Horticultural Societies are not exempt from such ill-conditioned creatures. In return for all these discomforts, what do the poor Chairmen get? Pecuniarily, not one mill. They are required to be content with the self-consciousness of earnest endeavor and good intention; with the knowledge that their disinterested labors are appreciated by the more thoughtful, and finally, that the matured result of their conclusions will find "fit audience, though few," in the published Transactions of the Society. Anything that can be done with propriety, to induce gentlemen of culture to co-operate in this especial field of usefulness, should be the earnest care of your Trustees. But, after all, your main dependence must be placed upon that generous public spirit, unfailing in the past, and upon which,

"If Rome hath not lost her breed of noble bloods,"

you can confidently rely for the future.

At the late Annual Autumnal Exhibition, two members of the Society deliberately removed from your tables and stands, in wanton violation of the Rules and in open defiance of the explicit orders of the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, the articles which they had entered for exhibition and for Premium. Motives of the meanest character, such as pique at the action and ultimate determination of your Committee, was the pretence and excuse for this gross impropriety. Respect for the gentler sex of one of these offenders precludes any mention of the names of either. But, unless expressly instructed to the contrary, the Committee of Arrangements will feel constrained to protect their authority from contempt, by excluding from future competition persons who man-

ifest themselves either oblivious or unconscious of the obligations which they assume upon admission within the unaccustomed society of gentlemen and ladies.

The members of this Society who reside in the City of Worcester, are to be felicitated upon the inexhaustibility of the Municipal resources. So rich is the soil that it rejects manure. In this "Heart of the Commonwealth," we behold no weary or over-burthened traveller tempted by the Japanese invitation to pause by the wayside for relief! On the contrary, Society is so cold, —its formalities so polished,—its exigencies so rigidly observed,—that the very demands of Nature would be subjected to State "search," or Federal "license," unless endorsed by the Original Gardener. Hence it happens that all filth is so readily discerned. For this reason it is that the least speck of dirt is at once *avoided as an obstacle* by our heavily-imposed and evilly disposed guardians of the Peace. Therefore, and for that reason solely is it, that the Sewerage of one half of the Municipality is to be concentrated into a single channel and thenceforth ejected to fertilize the valley of the Upper Blackstone. The Tax-payers can perhaps determine, by reference to their assessments, the actual cost to them in money, of this system of terrene devastation. But the Agriculturist to a partial extent, and the Horticulturist in every branch of his profession, can but realize in all stages of their practice, the reckless and wasteful deprivation to which they are subjected. The æsthetic man is well enough in his way. But the Pomologist is æsthetic naturally and by acquirement; and he confesses to an honest need of plant-food, by whatever euphuism it may be characterised. May it not be found that, with the *Ordure* of Worcester will disappear its *Verdure*? How long can a Bank endure the simultaneous withdrawal of its capital and discharge of its liabilities? Can you burn a candle at both ends to advantage?

The number of Members admitted to the Society, during the official incumbency of your present Secretary, recounts as follows:

In 1861;	1.	In 1864,	49.
" 1862,	19.	" 1865,	106.
" 1862,	42.	" 1866,	61.
In 1867,	82.		

The conditions of membership of the Society, have remained substantially unaltered throughout its entire existence. During that period, the advantages of such Membership have been enhanced beyond measure. At the first exhibitions there could be no premiums, for there were no funds out of which to pay them. Now, the Real Estate of the Corporation is valued for the purpose of assessments, at tens of thousands of dollars, while the Library supplies an inexhaustible and ever growing source of instruction. Its published Transactions, embodying the experience of a long series of years, and the patient observation of a large number of skillful Florists and Pomologists are of incalculable local worth. This is all shared by the new members upon like

terms with the old. Has not the time arrived when we should put a higher estimate upon our possessions, and rate a participation in them at a price somewhat more closely approximating that which they bear in the public judgment?

Should it be your decision, after full deliberation, to augment the cost of membership, the further question will be presented of the expediency of retaining the existing discrimination between the *sexes*. It may well be a right of Woman to pay the fair value of admission to our Society. The Secretary would be the last, knowing how much is due to her zealous co-operation in our pursuits, to recommend or justify any invidious distinction. The whole subject is urged upon your attention as one that demands prompt action, and with no purpose of discouraging or impeding accessions to the Society, of which it is hoped that the Rolls may yet embrace the names of every man, woman and child in the community.

The Financial Situation of the Society is as follows:

Loan of Worcester Co. Institution for Savings, Nov, 1, 1866,		$7,800 00
Minus payments from Fund for Reduction of Debt,	$3,795 00	
Other Funds, - : - -	100 00	
		$3,895 00
Leaving *Amount of Debt* due Nov, 1, 1867, - -		$3,985 00

Two Hundred Dollars ($200 00) of the Fund for the Reduction of the Debt stil remain due and unpaid. This sum will be applicable to its further liquidation.

The Gross Rental of the Real Estate on Front Street, belonging to the Society, amounts to - - - - $2.750 00

The Insurance upon the property of the Society has been increased in obedience to a vote of the Trustees, passed at their last Annual Meeting, so that the outstanding Policies rate according to the annexed table.

On Horticultural Hall.

Policy	W. Co. M. F. Ins. Co.,	expires Dec. 1, 1871, -	$5,000 00
"	Mer. and Farmers,	" Feb. 1, 1869, -	2,000 00
"	" "	" " " " -	1,000 00
"	Fitchburg,	" Jan. 1, 1869, -	1,000 00
	"	" Jan. 1, 1869, -	1,000 00
	Total on Hall,	- - -	$10,000 00

On Library, Furniture, &c., &c.

Policy,	Fitchburg Ins. Co.,	Expires Jan. 1, 1869,	$1,000 00
"	" "	" " " "	800 00
"	Mer. and Farmers,	" Feb. 1, 1876,	700 00
"	Holyoke,	" Jan. 1, 1869,	500 00
	Total,	- - - - -	$3,000 00

It may seem ungracious to invite your attention once more to the inadequacy of the present accommodations of the Society, in view of the munificence of which it was so recently the object, and which was so appropriately announced to you by the acting President, at the Annual Autumnal Exhibition. Yet the bed of a Secretary, even of a Horticultural Society, is not always of *Roses*. Besides, — Roses have their thorns. The condition of the Corporation, however, whether actual or prospective, must be laid before you; and, in the absence of the President, the duty devolves upon one who has themes enough of another and varied nature, upon which to exhaust your patience.

It must be obvious to all who have had ought to do with the Arrangements for the Annual Autumnal Exhibition, that the space at their command was cramped. Not — that there is insufficient room to contain all the contributions which have been offered of late years: but that, by reason of the inadequacy of the Hall, no opportunity is afforded for congenial or tasteful grouping. It would be simply impossible to arrange Flowers and Fruits into distinctive classes, without the employment of so many tables as to necessitate the exclusion of the spectators. Of course, an Exhibition, with nobody to view it, does not enter into your purposes. And yet it will be indispensable, to insure justice in the awards of your Committees, that such classification should be made, and that the articles entered by contributors for a specific competition, should no longer be lost to general observation, in a common indistinguishable mass. Premiums are proposed for collections of so many varieties of Apples, or Pears, and also special Premiums for separate varieties determined by name. At present, not one, even of the Committees, can tell, without careful and tedious inquisition, to what objects their attention should be addressed. And, in the growing difficulty of finding gentlemen competent and willing to serve upon those Committees, any measure that may tend to abridge or alleviate their labors, which, at the same time, promotes the aims of the Society, ought not to be regarded with indifference.

At the recent Annual Autumnal Exhibition, the arrangement of the Tables, and the general distribution of the Contributions, which had continued essentially unchanged from the earliest occupation of the Hall, were totally altered. The benefits thereby attained were obvious to the most unaccustomed eye. Beauty of expression, if the term may be employed, united with economy of space, in its commendation. Paradoxical as it may appear, while more room was occupied by the Tables, they also left more for aisles and passage-ways. But it taxed our accommodations to the utmost. And the warning conveyed in the unwonted profusion of Apples was intensified by the reflection, that even that superb display scarcely equalled a moiety of the quantity which had been exhibited in former years of plenty. Almost the entire space allotted to hardy Grapes was usurped by a most strange, but welcome guest — the Peach. Had the season been propitious for Grapes, it would be difficult to assign limits to the excess of room required over that at command.

The conviction of your Secretary, formed and strengthened by seven years of official experience, is, that the present Hall will very speedily prove, if it is not already, unsuitable for the purposes of the Society. In addition to the reasons urged in his report of 1866, the advancing price of Real Estate, in all accessible portions of the City, would seem to render some decisive action alike proper and timely. If it is the deliberate policy of the Society to hold Real Property as the most eligible investment of their funds, it would appear that the period has arrived when it must be determined whether to remain in the present location; and, if so, how long such continuance will be possible. Whether, all the while, the price of land upon Main street and to the westward, will not be constantly increasing: — an increment that could it be made to enure to the benefit of the Society, might possibly weigh heavily in favor of a change of situation. One estate, at least, has come upon the market since this Report was commenced, which unites all requirements and would fulfil every need. In the construction of a building thereon, taste could preside at its foundation and convenience dictate its every arrangement. *Fashion* — which so long and persistently upheld Brinley Hall, and which still reverts with regret to its acoustic advantages and symmetrical proportions, would hail with rapture the dedication of a substitute for existing ill-arranged, inadequate, and unattractive structures. The value of the Hall, or Halls, strictly so termed, in our building, to ourselves or to our tenants, must depend largely, if not wholly, upon their popularity as places of resort. That popularity is influenced, and, to a great degree, controlled, by considerations of accessibility, adaptation to purposes of amusement or recreation; and, if last, not least, beauty. Fashion is seldom capricious in these exactions. When once she has obtained them all, she continues faithful in her attachment. Washburn Hall, despite the influence of a powerful Association, was never popular. The doors of the Theatre may, at any moment, be closed forever upon the Graces: the Muses be denied access to its auditorium. It remains for this Society to decide whether a want does not exist in the community, which a prudent forecast of its own best interests should lead the Corporation to supply? To determine if the opportunity of others will not be found in our omission? If there is not a "tide in the affairs" of Societies, as well as of individuals, which, once suffered to ebb is lost forever?

For these reasons, in connection with those adduced in his last Report, which are most strongly re-affirmed and again commended to your notice; not less than for others that it is not deemed consistent with your interests to state thus publicly; your Secretary renewedly solicits your serious attention to the subject of a suitable and permanent location for *Horticultural Hall.*

All which is respectfully submitted:

EDWARD W. LINCOLN,
Secretary and Librarian.

Horticultural Hall,
Worcester, Mass., Nov. 6th, A. D. 1867.

MEMBERS ADMITTED SINCE NOVEMBER 7, A. D. 1867.

Names.	*Residence.*
John C. Adams,	Worcester.
Miss Ella A. Armsby,	"
Geo. F. Armsby,	"
John E. Bacon,	"
John S. Ballard,	"
Mrs. M. L. K. Barton,	"
Mrs. Osgood Bradley,	"
Mrs. L. Baker,	"
Mrs. Luther H. Bigelow,	"
Mrs. Geo. A. Chamberlain,	"
Joseph Chase,	"
Josiah H. Clarke,	"
John Claflin,	"
Mrs. Edwin Draper,	"
Mrs. James Draper,	"
James Draper,	"
Mrs. Geo. H. Estabrook,	"
Thomas B. Eaton,	"
Mrs. Charlotte M. Eaton,	"
Mrs. Jason Emerson,	Millbury.
Samuel T. Field,	Worcester.
Albert A. Gordon,	"
Mrs. A. A. Gordon,	"
Miss Julia E. Green,	"
Joseph H. Gleason,	Holden.
Jonathan R. Gleason,	Worcester.
Mrs. D. S. Goddard,	"
Gerry Hutchinson,	"
Mrs. Gerry Hutchinson,	"
Mrs. Stephen Harrington,	"
Frank W. Harrington,	"
L. R. Hapgood,	"
Mrs. John Hillard,	"
Mrs. Gideon Harris,	"
D. W. Haskins,	"
Frederick Hancock,	"
O. L. Hatch,	"
Mrs. O. L. Hatch,	"
Isaac B. Hartwell,	Oxford.
Ida W. Johnson,	Worcester,

Names.	*Residence.*
John F. Johnson,	Northborough.
Wm. H. Johnson,	"
Rev. J. D. E. Jones,	Worcester.
Frank J. Kinney,	"
Mrs. W. P. Kinney,	"
Michael Kraft,	Leicester.
Mrs. T. M. Lamb,	Worcester.
Mrs. John Lyman,	"
Mrs. Mason H. Morse,	"
Mrs. C. D. Morse,	Millbury.
Mrs. Maria S. G. Moen,	Worcester.
Mrs. Elizabeth W. McPherson,	"
Miss Mary W. Martin,	"
Oliver S. Mowry,	Shrewsbury.
Mrs. J. C. Newton,	Worcester.
Mrs. Ann M. Newell,	"
John E. Phelps,	"
Mrs. Josiah Pickett,	"
Mrs. Samuel B. Parsons,	"
Chas. L. Pierce,	"
Mrs. Aaron Parker,	"
Geo. M. Piper,	"
Henry L. Parker,	"
Mrs. Geo. R. Peckham,	"
Mrs. J. Marcus Rice,	"
Mrs. Ezra B. Rice,	"
Mrs. Sarah M. Smith,	"
John P. Streeter,	"
Mrs. Lottie J. Stone,	"
Miss Mary A. Stone,	"
Miss Lizzie Stone,	"
Master Geo. H. Stone,	"
Miss L. Jennie Stone,	"
Mrs. Harvey Sturtevant,	"
Mrs. F. J. Trask,	Leicester.
Ephraim C. Tainter,	Worcester.
Erastus S. Wheeler,	Berlin.
Mrs. Hartley Williams,	Worcester.
Mrs. Asa D. Whittemore,	"
Miss Mary E. Willard,	"

OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

OF THE

Worcester County Horticultural Society.

FOR 1868.

PRESIDENT:

FRANCIS H. DEWEY, Worcester.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

J. HENRY HILL, of Worcester; O. B. HADWEN, of Worcester; CALVIN TAFT, of Worcester.

SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN.

EDWARD W. LINCOLN, of Worcester.

TREASURER:

FREDERICK Wm. PAINE, of Worcester.

TRUSTEES:

Stephen Salisbury,	Worcester.	Samuel H. Colton,	Worcester.
D. Waldo Lincoln,	"	Loring Coes,	"
Isaac Davis,	"	Emory Banister,	"
Edward Earle,	"	Jonathan Grout,	"
Benjamin Butman,	"	Horatio Phelps,	"
John C. Ripley,	"	Samuel V. Stone,	"
John C. Newton,	"	Edward L. Davis,	"
J. Frank Allen,	"	Francis B. Rice,	"
Stephen Salisbury, Jr.,	"	Paul Whitin,	Whitinsville.
William T. Merrifield,	"	Jonathan D. Wheeler,	Grafton.
John Milton Earle,	"	Josiah L. Woodward,	Millbury.
George Jaques,	"	Newell Wood,	"

AUDITORS:

Samuel H. Colton, of Worcester. Emory Banister, of Worcester.

Standing Committees.

COMMITTEE ON EXHIBITIONS.—*President, Secretary,* John C. Newton, O. B. Hadwen, Dr. Samuel Flagg, Emory Banister, Charles Richardson.

APPLES.—Edwin Conant, *Chairman;* S. H. Colton, O. B. Hadwen, J. Frank Allen, John S. Ballard, S. A. Knox, George A. Adams, of *Worcester;* D. M. Hemenway, of *Millbury,* and Isaac B. Hartwell, of *Oxford.*

FLOWERS, PLANTS, &c.—John Milton Earle, *Chairman;* George E. Francis, Charles Richardson, David S. Messinger, J. M. C. Armsby, Henry Woodward.

GRAPES, PEACHES, &c.—Rufus Woodward, *Chairman;* B. Butman, D. Waldo Lincoln, John C. Ripley, Francis H. Dewey, Horatio Phelps, of *Worcester,* Paul Whitin, of *Whitinsville,* and F. M. Marble, of *Grafton.*

PEARS.—Hartley Williams, *Chairman;* J. Henry Hill, Henry Phelps, Stephen S. Foster, John C. Newton, Emory Banister, James Draper, John Green, of *Worcester,* and John F. Johnson of *Northborough.*

VEGETABLES.—Henry Chapin, *Chairman;* Marshall Flagg, Charles Belcher, George G. Burbank, J. D. Lovell, S. Harrison Knox, of *Worcester,* and Josiah L. Woodward, of *Millbury.*

ON HORTICULTURAL HALL.—Emory Banister, O. B. Hadwen and John C. Ripley.

ON LIBRARY AND PUBLICATION.—Edward W. Lincoln, Francis H. Dewey, George Jaques.

ON SYNONYMS.—John Milton Earle, Samuel H. Colton, George Jaques.

☞ The ANNUAL AUTUMNAL EXHIBITION will be held on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of September, commencing at 6 o'clock, P. M., on the 15th.